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Suharto's Address at Nonaligned Meeting Opening

BK1405112192 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0108 GMT 14 May 92

[Address by Indonesian President Suharto to the Nonaligned Movement ministerial meeting at Nusa Indah Hotel, Nusa Dua, Bali, on 14 May—live]

[Text] Peace be upon you! Honorable chairman and respected delegates! Indonesia deeply appreciates the confidence and honor given by the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] member countries to host the ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Movement. Speaking on behalf of the people of Indonesia and the government, I extend our warmest welcome to all participating delegates with the hope that your presence and participation will be most beneficial.

We are happy to witness the large number of delegates currently attending this meeting. This indicates our interest in the basic important commitments and mutual objectives that strongly bind us together. Our warm welcome simultaneously expresses our deep appreciation regarding the sense of responsibility and the vibrant solidarity that led you to attend this meeting.

Honorable members! Thirty years ago 25 national leaders of newly-independent countries gathered at the historic high-level Belgrade conference, and it was there that the Nonaligned Movement was born. Currently, global political awareness is undergoing a radical change. The basic principles and objectives which were laid down during that historic conference still remain relevant and unchanged. We can still vividly remember the call made on leaders to end colonialism and neocolonialism, eliminate racial discrimination, end all conflicts through peaceful and amicable methods, avoid interference in one another's internal affairs, end the arms race, guarantee and respect the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of a nation, and ensure the people's rights in determining their own destiny as well as the basic human and individual rights of every race.

The methods of the international order in bilateral relations proposed by the founders of the Nonaligned Movement provided alternative decisions to those that were taken, which were different from those decisions taken by other movements which had divided the world into two conflicting blocs. The decisions made then to live in harmony and not in confrontation are still relevant. Democratization in international relations cannot come about through domination, while international cooperation cannot be achieved through suppression. Mutual development is carried out through just methods and not through exploitation.

We are certainly gratified over our movement's rapid development since its establishment three decades ago, because it has become a vibrant force—a force which is independent and active in the struggle for and pursuit of global peace, justice, and mutual progress. The anti-imperialist (?force) that was concentrated through the process of depolarization led to the basic restructuring of the international community during the Second World War. Our movement was unexpectedly successful in decreasing the spread of global polarization and the arms race. The Nonaligned Movement brought about international awareness of the urgent need to eliminate the injustice that is currently prevailing in the international economic system. It would probably be difficult to evaluate how far the Nonaligned Movement's conferences have gone to create an impact on a superpower leader who had previously spoken of harmonious and peaceful coexistence. It is obvious then that the dramatic major changes which occured at the end of the 1980s have affected, among other things, global politics and economics. These changes included the collapse of the global system formed by the two blocs, which can be observed as a visible truth of the Nonaligned Movement. On the other hand, the Nonaligned Movement has never deviated from its principles or its appropriate role.

Honorable members! We should not be feeling satisfied with our achievements. The ending of the cold war and the declining tensions between the East and the West have resulted in several regional conflicts being resolved, and this has created awareness and confidence among countries with regard to the United Nation's important role. The interdependence that exists among nations and the increasing globalization of the international economy have paved the way for fresh opportunities for more rational and mutually beneficial international cooperation. Even though such opportunities can be found in the present international political climate, numerous obstacles and problems still remain because several old issues have yet to be solved. This is due to the unstable global situation.

Tension and armed conflicts such as ethnic and religious conflicts are continuing in various countries and parts of the world. Remnants of colonialism and racism have not been fully eliminated from the earth. Tendencies toward the establishment of integrated entities are accompanied by fearful symptoms of disintegration in various countries in Europe as well as in various developing countries. In addition, positive changes in international politics have not been visible [words indistinct] in the economic field. In this field, the problems of welfare and the disparity between the developed and developing countries have not been redressed. This has now become a central problem that needs to be overcome immediately. Thus, the emerging global constellation which the leaders of developed countries have often described as a new world order will remain fragile and uncertain, at least during the current transitional period. Similarly, we must not allow the new order to be simply a continuation of the old patterns of domination by the strong over the weak and the rich over the poor.

Honorable chairman and respected delegates! It has been obvious that the Nonaligned Movement has been required to make a correct and realistic evaluation of the all implications of the new developments to take advantage of opportunites and overcome challenges in current international developments and, accordingly, to readjust its policies or reorder its priorities. In this connection, the Coordinating Bureau meeting is of paramount importance, because the meeting must focus its attention on a wider framework—in this case overall world developments or the rapidly changing world—in addition to making procedural and substantive preparations for the summit meeting next September. The emerging international political and economic realities have forced the Nonaligned Movement to face historic challenges. Greater opportunities that need to be taken advantage of and new problems—the solution of which requires common efforts by all members of the international community—currently exist. Not only will our quick and correct response to these challenges require dynamic adjustments to new situations and conditions, but our response will also call for the creation of a system within our movement that works more efficiently. In this connection, we are required not to be simply reactive. On the contrary, we must try to formulate and develop new concepts, strategies, and initiatives that will enable the Nonaligned Movement to play a more tangible role in determining the direction of global political developments and international relations. In this regard, we must strictly adhere to the basic principles and goals which have lost none of their validity and relevance. However, we must simultaneously be open to conducting intensive dialogues and making greater contacts with other countries or groups of countries which share our views on the current process of global changes.

Honorable chairman! The Nonaligned Movement is required to engage in a realistic reordering of its new priorities to pursue its goals and safeguard the fundamental interests of its member countries. Such priorities should serve as a flexible rather than rigid guideline in pursuing our next initiatives. Obviously, it is our main duty to achieve lasting peace, common security, disarmament—especially nuclear disarmament—and common welfare, as long as the world is gripped by a sense of insecurity and plagued by various conflicts such as those at present.

If the long struggle of the Nonaligned Movement for a new international order is to turn into a tangible reality, then the United Nations will undeniably be the most effective instrument toward this end. For the Nonaligned Movement, a new international order will survive and be universally acceptable if such an order is built using the United Nations as its universal framework, fully adheres to the basic principles of the UN Charter, and works in accordance with the norms of common equality, sovereignty, and responsibility among nations. Thus, the Nonaligned Movement must offer tangible thoughts and initiatives as well as actively help strengthen, revitalize, and democratize the United Nations.

Our movement must not slacken its vigilance in safeguarding the genuine independence of its members, as long as international relations continue to be marked by disparities and dependence and military interventions, political interference, and economic pressure are rampant. Colonialism is now dying, and institutionalized racism such as the apartheid system is increasingly waning. However, the two systems, which are making a desperate bid to survive under disguised forms, will remain the main enemies of the Nonaligned Movement.

In addition, the settlement of armed conflicts in various parts of the world should remain our main consideration. Among them is the Arab-Israeli conflict, the essence of which is the Palestinian people's just struggle under the leadership of PLO for self-determination, independence, and sovereignty in their homeland. Similarly, it is obvious that the Nonaligned Movement should at present focus on the economic field, especially development, and international economic cooperation. Despite a tangible improvement in East-West relations, a growing polarization continues to mark North-South relations. Thus, the most pressing task is to again put these problems at the top of our list of activities.

Honorable chairman! The world economy is still unstable due to staggering and uneven growth. Conditions in the majority of the developing countries have not headed towards any improvement during the past decade since the early 1980s. The developing countries are still burdened with a debt crisis, due to limited development funds and other obstacles that prevent them from gaining entry into the markets of developed countries. The decrease in the prices of their export commodities is also another reason for these conditions.

The Uruguay Round of talks is stalemated, although lately there have been signs of improvement in several important sectors. Failure to reach a practical conclusion within a targeted amount of time will definitely result in higher protectionism, and this will worsen relations between industrialized and developing countries. The expectation that the end of the era of East-West confrontation would draw the developing countries closer has not materialized. Currently, it has become more apparent that the drastic economic changes taking place in the Central and East European countries, and the formation of powerful economic blocs among developed countries—despite their positive aspects—have had a negative impact on prospects for trade and development in developing countries.

These harmful developments contribute to the uncertain and sluggish global economy. As a matter of fact, problems facing the developing countries have worsened. In this regard, the prolonged critical situation in Africa has reached such an acute point that the international community must take prompt and proper action.

Faced with such realities, there is an urgent need to reach a new consensus and commitment on a global basis to strengthen international economic cooperation and to expedite the development of developing countries. Caught in an atmosphere where there is a pressing need to be internationally interdependent when faced with a common problem, a new consensus can only be achieved through consultation and negotiation. At the moment, it has been accepted that lasting economic progress in the North can never be guaranted if it is not supported by economic growth in the South, considering that the fates of North and South are interrelated.

Development efforts at a national level can only be successful within a favorable global environment. Therefore, it is crucial that efforts to reactivate constructive dialogues between the developed and developing countries should be based on genuine independence, common interest, and mutual benefit. With these efforts, our movement could definitely reintensify efforts and attention toward catering to urgent needs.

I am aware that there are still differences of opinion between the North and South over this issue. However, I believe that a meeting point can be found. Likewise, I feel that there is an urgent need to intensify efforts to seek a solution to global issues. For this a new approach, arrangements, and a more effective mechanism should be applied in handling international economic relations and cooperation in development.

A consensus reached at the 18th special UN General Assembly session on strategic international development in 1990s and the recent UNCTAD [UN Conference on Trade and Development] meeting in Cartegena were encouraging signs. Consensus in turn becomes the starting point for continuity in our development.

Honorable chairman! Within the framework of North-South relations, we must likewise encourage South-South cooperation based on the concept of equality and self-reliance. The most important step in upholding concrete economic and technical cooperation is to apply a practical and mutually beneficial approach. This effort will clearly open up new opportunities for our growth and lessen our dependence on the North. The more important reason for this effort is that it is an integral part of the restructuring process in international economic relations.

In addition, the success of South-South cooperation will enhance our credibility and strengthen our struggle to establish a more rational and fair new international economic order. If the Nonaligned Movement intends to maintain its relevance in the rapidly changing world, it cannot afford to be indifferent to new global problems such as protection of the environment, human rights, democracy, and what the developed countries have often called good governance. In the face of these problems, there are pressing needs for the Nonaligned Movement to formulate its common position and approaches in a clear and integrated manner on the basis of equality, respect for diverse national customs and cultures, and common responsibility, within a framework of mutually advantageous international cooperation. This task has become even more important in view of the growing tendency on the part of developed countries to link these issues as political conditionalities to the sphere of cooperative development.

Internally, we should continue what we agreed upon in the ninth summit meeting in Belgrade and even before with a view to enhancing the efficiency of the organizational procedures of the Nonaligned Movement. We should continue rationalizing and simplifying the convening of meetings, the decisionmaking process, and the mechanism of internal coordination, as well as coordination with the Group of 77. Through these steps, we will automatically enhance the effectiveness of our external tasks.

Honorable chairman! I have just noted some general problems that need to be topics of discussion during this meeting in preparation for the tenth summit meeting to be held in Jakarta in September. Our direction is clear. By strictly adhering to the basic principles and goals of the Nonaligned Movement, which are the main pillars of our integrity and common strength, we are prepared and able to face challenges arising from the waves of reforms and change currently affecting the world. Similarly, we must be able to ensure that the Nonaligned Movement will spearhead efforts to establish a new international order on the basis of genuine independence, peace, and common prosperity. Inarguably, the results of your meeting will essentially determine the success of the forthcoming summit meeting.

I greatly hope that Bali—as the island of gods which emanates noble values, harmony, and mutual tolerance—will contribute to the success of your negotiations. Once again, I would like to greet you—welcome to Indonesia—and hereby officially declare the meeting open. May God Almighty bless all of us! Thank you and peace be upon you again!

Alatas Calls for NAM Effort on New Order

BK1405141692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1232 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 14 (ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas urged member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to seek to engage the international community in jointly directing the ongoing changes towards a new order that is more consonant with the ideals and principles of the movement.

"It would be an ultimate irony if our movement, which has long consistently struggled for true independence, peace, justice and shared prosperity, would now leave the process of building a new international order to those who made it necessary to revamp the old one," he said at a plenary session of the NAM ministerial meeting here Thursday.

At the session, opened officially by President Suharto earlier, Alatas reminded the participants that NAM had done much in the last three decades.

He pointed out as well that decolonisation process, colonialism, at least in its classical form, had been practically eradicated thanks to the impetus that NAM gave.

NAM had spearheaded the crusade against institutionalised racism like apartheid and fight for the process of nuclear disarmament, which had now been reduced to a level that prevented the world from plunging into a nuclear abyss.

Bloc and bloc politics have yielded to multi-polarism and growing trend towards democratization and political pluralism, both within and among nations.

"By our deeds our movement stands vindicated and we may take justified encouragement from it. But we can preserve what we have gained only by advancing it.

"To stand still in a world of frantic motion is to regress. Thus even before our last summit in Belgrade we engaged in a thorough assessment of the radical changes taking place in the world today. We acutely realise that we are confronted by a new situation, with rapid developments and often unexpected twists and turns occurring almost daily," he said.

Now, he said, despite East-West conciliation, the international scene was still beset with unresolved tensions and violent conflicts.

"Physically, the colonial era may be at an end, but mentally, the desire to dominate and exploit persists. Neo-colonialism, therefore, comes in many guises and wrapped in various covers, in commerce and communications, in technology and culture," he pointed out.

He said it is in the economic sphere that inequitable structures and unequal relations between the developed and developing countries have become even more pronounced.

"There is painful paradox that while developing countries are sincerely engaged in adjusting their economies and in liberalising their trade policies, often at high social cost, their efforts are being rewarded by the developed countries with a proliferation of more insidious forms of protectionism, by unilateral imposition and by increasing resort to so-called managed trade," he said.

According to him, measures to alleviate the eternal debt crisis have proven to be far from adequate, because the approaches taken tended to be more concerned with protecting the creditors than helping the debtors. Thus, we observe that in a strange reversal of the laws of nature, world financial flows are streaming from lower to higher levels.

"For this reason we all agree to restore the issues of development and international economic cooperation to the very top of our agenda and we should endeavour to reactivate a constructive North-South dialogue," he stressed.

Meanwhile, according to ANTARA sources, the vice chairmen of the meeting are Algeria, Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique and Kenya (for Africa), Bangladesh, India, Iran, and Syria (for Asia), Chile, Colombia, Guyana, and Panama (for Latin America and the Caribbean) and Malta (for Europe), while the rapporteur general is Nigeria.

Likely to be in the agenda of the meeting, they said, is the full admission of Guatemala and Papua New Guinea in NAM membership.

They further said, there were nine issues grouped in three clusters to be discussed; firstly, review of international situation, role of NAM in emerging new world order, and restructuring and revitalization of the UN.

Secondly, development and trade, South-South cooperation, as well as environment and sustainable development, and thirdly Middle East, South Africa and hUman rights, the sources said, adding that each cluster would be introduced by a lead speaker.

Malaysia Urges Restructuring UN Security Council

BK1405152092 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Malaysia has asked the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] to take a firmer stand on the need to restructure the UN Security Council. Foreign Affairs Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said dramatic changes the world over and the admission of new members into the world body have made the restructuring necessary. This is in line with practices of other UN agencies such as the UN General Assembly. Changes in international relations, especially after the end of the cold war and the ideological conflict between the East and West have led to a spirit of cooperation within the world body in settling several regional conflicts. Datuk Abdullah was speaking at the ministerial meeting of the NAM Coordinating Bureau in Nusa Dua, Bali. He said Malaysia is taking a serious view of the tendency among certain Security Council members to take charge of General Assembly affairs and try to undermine the role of other agencies such as the General Assembly and the International Court of Justice.

Ranariddh Cites NAM Role in Cambodian Peace

BK1405143692 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1220 GMTdiscrd 14 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 14 (ANTARA)—Indonesia is to send a second battalion to reinforce the United Nations' peace keeping forces in Cambodia, Prince Norodom Ranariddh said here on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters after being received by President Suharto following the opening of the ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Ranariddh said that the president told him the sending of the battalion is now under process of leaving Jakarta for Cambodia.

Ranariddh who is president of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia] member of the Supreme National Council on Cambodia, also said NAM has played an important role in an effort to bring peace to Cambodia.

"NAM has played an active role, including Indonesia of course," he said adding that Indonesia played the role "directly."

Yugoslavia on behalf of the NAM is one of the signatories of the peace agreement which stressed that all NAM members are to help the United Nations to fully implementing all provisions of the peace agreement, he said.

In general, he added, all members of NAM have to, including Cambodia, do their best to contribute to the strengthening of NAM and support the idea of fostering the South-South relations, instead of the North-South at the time when they are not able to narrow the gap.

Economic development is important for the South-South cooperation because without well being NAM members could not talk about political stability, Ranariddh said.

Asked on what message Cambodia would bring to NAM to play a major role in the movement, he replied laughingly "..No, not this time, you have to wait for my father."

PLO Minister Cites NAM International Impact

BK1405112892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0925 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 14 (OANA/ANTARA)—Palestinian Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi believes that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is powerful enough to solve regional problems as long as it is through peaceful means.

It is a movement but more powerful than others, Faruq Qaddumi said here Thursday prior to the opening ceremony of the NAM ministerial meeting of Coordinating Bureau by Indonesia's President Suharto. NAM as it is will be able to reinforce its efforts in the current post cold war era and to be more competent in tackling international problems, he added.

Asked about his expectations concerning the struggle of the Palestinian people for independence, Minister Qaddumi said all political ways of NAM should back the process of peace and the Arab countries' intention to establish permanent and endurance peace in the Middle East.

The Middle East issue is one of the nine topics identified by the ongoing NAM meeting to be further discussed in the September summit in Jakarta this year.

President Suharto in his inaugural speech at the NAM meeting reaffirmed NAM's commitment to support the Palestinian struggle for liberation.

The resolution of armed conflicts and tensions in various regions of the world should indeed remain at the center of our efforts, foremost among them being the Arab-Israeli conflict with the just cause of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO, for self-determination and sovereign independence in their own homeland at its core, the Indonesian head of state said.

Responding to the press' question, Minister Faruq Qaddumi said he has a plan to meet President Suharto during his stay in Indonesia.

I will convey the greetings of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to His Excellency President Suharto and our appreciation for the solidarity and the support we receive from the Indonesian people, president and government, he said.

We maintain the fratenal relations with Indonesia which stands firmly to support the struggle of the Palestinian people and the PLO, the minister added.

On the current Middle East peace meeting, Qaddumi said Israel refuses to discuss matters of substance during the negotiations.

Israel is against the process of peace and insists on maintaining the occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories.

Therefore, it is up to the Non-Aligned Movement and international community to press Israel and the United States to accept the international legality, Qaddumi, who is heading a six-member delegation of Palestine, said.

The members of the delegation are adviser of Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for international affairs Zuhdi Tarzi, ambassador to Spain Dr. Isam Saleh, ambassador to Malaysia Ahmad Al-Farra, permanent representative of the State of Palestine in the United Nations Dr. Nasir Al-Qudwa and Charge d' Affaires of the Palestinian Embassy in Indonesia Taher Hamad.

PRC Promises To Fight for 3d World Interests

BK1405125892 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1153 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 14 (ANTARA)—The People's Republic of China (PRC) has promised to channel and fight for the interests of the developing countries through its veto rights in the UN Security Council, saying that it would never abuse the rights.

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the PRC Liu Huaqiu told ANTARA in an interview here Thursday that, despite its veto rights, Beijing had no intention to use them on all occasions.

"We will use them only, when to our judgment, they are necessary to safeguard the developing countries from harmful policies," he said, assuring that in doing so it would hold thorough discussions and consultations with the developing countries and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Liu is here to attend NAM's meeting of Coordinating Bureau from May 14 to 15 as an observer.

Through his interpreter he said, the PRC had always identified itself as a developing countries, therefore it considered NAM's principles, especially on issues concerning peace and development, still had practical objectives.

By coming as an observer to the ongoing NAM ministerial, he went on, the PRC hoped to work together with most developing nations in the world.

Stressing that the PRC had always sympathized with NAM, he described a cooperation with the 31-year old movement as something very important.

While attending the ministerial meeting which was opened by President Suharto earlier Thursday, he said he would also pay a call on Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to discuss bilateral issues.

He met Alatas during the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) meeting in Beijing last month.

At the meeting, both countries agreed to turn out more concrete programs, as a follow-up of the exchange of high ranking government officials' visit which had frequently taken place.

Indonesia and the PRC resumed diplomatic relations on August 8, 1990 after 23 years of freeze.

PRC Thanks India for Support as NAM Observer

BK1305150292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] China has thanked India for supporting its admission to the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] as an observer. The deputy foreign minister of China, Mr. Liu Huaqiu, who had a meeting with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, in Bali today, felt that China's association with NAM would help strengthen the movement as a whole. China also felt that closer and friendly relations between Beijing and New Delhi are important for strengthening peace and development in the region and the world. Mr. Liu said that China was keenly looking forward to the visit of President Venkataraman which, he said, would further strengthen the relations between the two countries. Mr. Faleiro also held meetings with the foreign ministers of Cyprus, Vietnam, Jordan, and Mozambique.

Sri Lanka Lauds Suharto Emphasis on Economy

BK1405141092 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1217 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Nusa Dua (Bali), May 14 (ANTARA)—Sri Lankan Foreign Minister James Edward Harold Herath hails President Suharto's speech which stresses the importance for Non-Aligned Movement to give priority to economic issues for its activities.

Speaking to ANTARA after attending the opening of the ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) here Thursday, the minister said that the economic sector is the most important area in nine directions of issues that will be brought to the NAM summit in Jakarta in September.

Economic issues are very important for all international bodies, including NAM, because they must ultimately see their peoples benefitting from each other, Harold added.

It is in this regard that NAM should not focus on the political angle only, he said, pointing out that trade and exchange of technical know-how are among economic angles which the movement needs to develop.

"So, I agree with what the president has said in his speech," he said.

Commenting on broader economic areas, he said that NAM members are going to link themselves with G-77 and there is a combination between the two. Thus, NAM should not concentrate its activities merely on political problems.

He said that NAM cannot leave isolated regional groupings such as EEC and G-77 because it is of great importance for its members to exchange views.

SRV's Nguyen Manh Cam Meets Indonesia's Alatas

BK1405155892 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 14 May 92

Hanoi VNA May 14—Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, who is attending the conference of the Coordinating Committee of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in Bali (Indonesia) met on May 12 with Indonesia Foreign Minister Ali Alatas who is also president of the conference.

The two ministers compared notes on the international and regional issues as well as matters relating to NAM and the relations between Vietnam and Indonesia. They shared the views on the general situation, orientation for future activities and the coordination of action between Vietnam and Indonesia in NAM and at other international forums.

Minister Nguyen Manh Cam highly valued Indonesia's contributions to NAM activities and affirmed Vietnam's efforts to make the 10th NAM summit meeting a success.

Minister Ali Alatas expressed thanks for Vietnam's strong effort and affirmed that Indonesia would effectively cooperate with Vietnam in the preparation for the upcoming summit.

On the Indonesia-Vietnam relations, the two sides affirmed their determination and aspiration to strengthen political and economic cooperation on the basis of the agreements opened between chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet and President Suharto during the recent October 1991 visit to Indonesia so as to contribute to regional peace, stability and cooperation;

The meeting took place in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

Suharto Meets Yugoslavia's Jovic 14 May

BK1405154092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] President Suharto has said Indonesia is concerned over developments in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. However, he made it clear that Indonesia's policy toward Yugoslavia remains unchanged. The president said what happens within Yugoslavia are their internal affairs. Minister and State Secretary Murdiono disclosed this to reporters during a briefing on the results of a meeting between the head of state and Borisav Jovic, member of the Yugoslav Presidency, in Nusa Dua, Bali today. The meeting, which lasted about 30 minutes, took place after President Suharto opened the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau. The ministerial meeting will end tomorrow.

Minister Murdiono said the head of state expressed Indonesia's stand after listening to Jovic's explanation about the changes especially political, in his country. During the meeting, the head of state and his guest also discussed various efforts to enhance the NAM's role primarily because the two countries are among the group's founders.

India Says Pakistan Supports Terrorism

BK1505092892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] India today told the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] ministerial meeting in Bali, Indonesia, that the entire law and order problem faced by India in Jammu and Kashmir is due mainly to the open support by Pakistan to terrorists and separatists. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, speaking at the foreign ministers meeting, regretted that Pakistan has chosen to break the NAM tradition of abstaining from raising bilateral issues by referring to Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to remarks by the Pakistan minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Kanjoo, about alleged human rights violations in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Faleiro said that Pakistan is pretending to espouse the cause of human rights while at the same time aiding and abetting terrorism and secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Japan

Anniversary of Okinawa's Reversion Celebrated

Quayle Announces Facilities Return

OW1505015292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0140 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 (KYODO)—The United States will return a communications facility at Onna, Okinawa, and two other facilities to Japan and dismantle a controversial training center on the island, Vice President Dan Quayle said Friday, the 20th anniversary of the return of Okinawa to Japan.

Quayle also said in a meeting with Japanese journalists that the U.S. and Japan plan to settle "as speedily as possible" the remaining land issues in Okinawa, including Naha Port.

Okinawan landowners have long sought the return of properties rented to the U.S. military, which account for about one-fifth of Okinawa's land area.

"We want to be as responsive and forthcoming as possible in order to help foster the economic growth and development of Okinawa," he said in a statement. "We will continue to evaluate potential options for returning any unneeded land, with an eye toward early, and substantive, progress."

While emphasizing the importance of the Range 21 Urban Combat Training Facilities at the Camp Hansen base to maintain the readiness of the U.S. Forces in Japan, Quayle said the U.S. will halt such training and dismantle the facilities.

Local residents have campaigned against the Range 21 Training Center.

In view of the local sentiment, Quayle declared, "For operational reasons, we have decided to suspend immediately urban combat training on this site and to dismantle those structures."

Quayle made the remarks before attending an official ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Okinawa reversion to Japanese control.

Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and other Japanese and U.S. officials will attend the ceremony.

Okinawa Prefecture has scheduled a separate ceremony of its own.

"You have borne a heavy share of the burden, you have been patient, and you have often been asked to put the common good ahead of the local desires," Quayle said of the Okinawa residents.

"I would like to express, on behalf of the U.S., our gratitude for your contribution to the U.S.-Japan alliance and the security of the entire Asia-Pacific region."

Okinawa is host to about 75 percent of the U.S. military bases in Japan and more than half of the 52,800 American troops in Japan.

Quayle's statement issued to the Japanese journalists said the U.S. has returned some 10,000 acres (4,000 hectares) of land and 42 facilities since the Okinawa reversion in 1972.

Sohei Miyashita, director general of the Japanese Defense Agency, hailed the dismantling of the urban combat training facilities as a dream come true for local residents.

He said he does not anticipate the construction of similar training grounds in Okinawa to replace the one being dismantled.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said he also welcomed the decision to shut down the training facilities.

But some Okinawa residents expressed the fear that the U.S. may conduct such training in other parts of the island prefecture.

Partnership Symbolism Stressed

OW1505041892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0411 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 (KYODO)— Japanese and U.S. leaders marked the 20th anniversary of the return of Okinawa to Japanese rule in a ceremony Friday, declaring the return of the militarily strategic territory a symbol of their partnership in protecting peace.

"The reversion of Okinawa was evidence of the firm determination shared by the two countries to defend freedom and ensure peace," Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said at the ceremony attended by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, Emperor Akihito, and former government officials from both countries who negotiated the return of Japan's southernmost prefecture.

"Upon the dawning of this new era, this determination will serve us as a guidepost in building up our future for the 21st century," Miyazawa said.

Emperor Akihito said that friendship and trust shared by Japan and the United States had made the 1972 return possible after 27 years of U.S. administration following Japan's defeat in World War II.

"The bond between the two countries is assuming greater importance than ever," he told the some 300 dignitaries assembled at the Constitutional Government Hall in central Tokyo.

The emperor also paid tribute to the those who died in Okinawa during the war. Okinawa was the only part of the Japanese main islands where a land battle occurred during the war.

Quayle said that the two nations should not let the "heat of settling differences" overshadow their accomplishments as partners.

"At one time our nations met in war. Today we meet as friends and partners," he said. "We need each other. We benefit from each other, and no one should ever pull us apart."

Earlier in the day Quayle extended an olive branch to the people of Okinawa with an announcement that the U.S. would return an additional 240 hectares of land occupied by U.S. military bases, and suspend urban combat training at Camp Hansen.

The presence of U.S. bases occupying 20 percent of the main island of Okinawa has been a constant irritant to many Okinawa residents.

Addressing the 300 guests assembled at the hall, Hiroshi Senaga, an Okinawan who helped arrange the return, made a plea for the return of the remaining bases.

While the vast majority of Okinawans are satisfied with the reversion, there are still many U.S. bases, he said.

'Text' of Emperor's Speech

OW1505042992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0417 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 (KYODO)—The following is a text of Emperor Akihito's speech Friday at a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the return of Okinawa to Japan.

I am highly pleased that a commemorative ceremony is being held today, on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa, with the presence of people concerned from both Japan and the United States.

I am deeply moved in attending this ceremony, reflecing upon the fact that many lives were lost in Okinawa in the past war and that the people of Okinawa had to bear untold tribulations.

It is reassuring to note today, when twenty years have passed since the reversion, that Okinawa Prefecture is ever developing and its people's welfare is being enhanced, thanks to the efforts of many people, including those of the prefecture.

The reversion of Okinawa was realized, owing to friendship and trust between Japan and the United States. The bond between the two countries is assuming greater importance than ever. I wish to take this opportunity to pay my deep respect to people of both countries who were involved in the reversion for their endeavors for its realization. It is my ardent hope that the relations of friendship and trust between our two countries will be further advanced and contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world.

I take to heart the past experiences of the people of Okinawa and wish, from the bottom of my heart, for the building of an affluent future for Okinawa Prefecture.

'Text' of Miyazawa's Speech

OW1505050992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0441 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—The following is a text of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa [speech] at a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the return of Okinawa to Japan.

It gives me great pleasure to be able to hold this ceremony commemorating the 20th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa, in the gracious presence of their majesties the emperor and empress, and with the attendance of His Excellency Dan Quayle, vice president of the United States, and many other distinguished guests both from Japan and abroad.

Throughout the cold war period spanning long years following the war, Japan safeguarded its peace and stability under the peace Constitution and the security arrangement with the United States. We should deeply ponder over the historic significance of the fact that the reversion of Okinawa took place under such difficult international circumstances and that it was effected in peace by the United States which had administered the islands as a result of the war. I wish to take this opportunity to express anew my respect to the United States for the historic decision it then made. I also wish to extend my deep appreciation to our predecessors who made great efforts to construct an unshakable relationship between our two countries, which constituted the basis of the reversion. To those Japanese and Americans who were involved in the negotiations for the reversion, I wish to pay my heartfelt tribute.

During the last 20 years since the reversion of Okinawa, there have been drastic changes in the international situation surrounding Japan and the United States. The East-West cold war has come to a close. We have entered an era to build a new order of world peace. Meanwhile, our two countries have vowed to further strengthen cooperation and collaboration for the peace and prosperity of the world, as stated in the "Tokyo Declaration on the Japan-U.S. Global Partnership" of last January. The reversion of Okinawa was evidence of the firm determination shared by the two countries to defend freedom and ensure peace. Upon the dawning of this new era, this determination will serve us as a guidepost in building up our future for the 21st century.

The people of Okinawa Prefecture had to go through indescribable hardships in the past. In consideration of such hardships of theirs, our government has been trying, among other things, to correct gaps in various areas between Okinawa and the mainland Japan and to improve basic conditions for Okinawa's self-sustained development, in accordance with the twice-formulated Okinawa promotion and development plans. It is truly gratifying to note that in consequence Okinawa Prefecture is accomplishing to face difficulties [passage as received], and there remain issues to be resolved. Our government, in view of such conditions, intends to address the problems besetting Okinawa with greater efforts, by, for example, obtaining Diet approval at the current session to extend for another 10 years the Okinawa Promotion and Development Special Treatment Act, and formulating the third Okinawa promotion and development plan, under which specific projects are to be carried out.

At this historic juncture of the 20th anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa, I am resolved to redouble my effort to advance further the trust and friendship between the peoples of our two countries, as demonstrated in the reversion, and to build an affluent future for Okinawa Prefecture.

In closing my address, I would like to express my very best wishes for the increasing development of Okinawa Prefecture.

Okinawa Hosts Ceremony

OW1505051092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0437 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Naha, May 15 (KYODO)—About 1,800 people attended a ceremony Friday in Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture, marking the 20th anniversary of the U.S. reversion of Okinawa to Japan in 1972.

Due to the Okinawan people's mixed emotions regarding the reversion, the ceremony was the first to be held on the reversion memorial day since the 10th anniversary when Okinawa was under a conservative prefectural administration.

Okinawa Gov. Masahide Ota addressed the audience saying that he hopes this anniversary will be an opportunity for a leap toward Okinawa's self-supported development.

While citing problems that Okinawa faces, such as those concerning U.S. bases in Okinawa and promotion of its industry, Ota said people can overcome the difficulties with the same courage that the people of the Ryukyu Kingdom had in the 15th and 16th centuries when they built a golden age for the islands by promoting trade with other Asian countries.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and other government officials were absent at the ceremony held at the Okinawa Convention Center because they were attending a government-hosted ceremony in Tokyo.

Meanwhile, a group of demonstrators began a march from Ginowan to Naha, calling for the withdrawal of U.S. bases as well as for the abandonment of a government-proposed Peacekeeping Cooperation Bill which is aimed at sending Japanese troops abroad to join United Nations peacekeeping operations.

Choichi Zukeran, 39, who heads a demonstration group with 1,000 members, said he feels angry that the U.S. bases still exist after 20 years.

U.S. Called 'Most Questionable' Trade Partner

OW1405135692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1345 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—The United States, with a wide range of unfair trade practices, is Japan's "most questionable" trade partner, a Japanese Government advisory panel says in a draft report obtained Thursday by Kyodo News Service.

The draft report, prepared by the industrial structure council, an advisory panel to the minister of international trade and industry, describes the U.S. as the most questionable among Japan's 10 major trading partners since it ranks top in what it calls unfair trade manners.

In determining whether a country is unfair in its trade practices, the 121-page draft report focuses on 11 areas, naming the U.S. questionable in 10 out of the 11 areas.

The 11 practices are import restrictions, government procurement, unilateral action against other countries, the extension of domestic antitrust policy to foreign countries, antidumping measures, origin rules, product standards, tariffs, protection of intellectual properties, regulations on foreign investment, and regulations on services.

Among what it terms as unfair U.S. trade practices, the draft report criticizes pressures on Japan to impose voluntary restraints on car exports, discrimination against foreign companies in government procurements, and intentional enforcement of antidumping rules.

The U.S. continues "gray measures such as voluntary regulations on exports (by other countries), and discriminates (against) foreign firms in state government procurements," says the report, the first unfair trade report of its kind in Japan.

The report also blames the now-expired Super 301 provision that authorized the U.S. trade representative to raise tariffs and take other measures against a country found to be unfair, while describing U.S. antidumping policy as being "intentionally" implemented against foreign firms.

In a general reference to unfair trade practices, the report brands such practices as being created from each country's domestic political conditions, and concludes that they could benefit specific domestic industries but should hurt a nation's economy as a whole.

Apart from the United States, the draft report criticizes the European Community (EC) as being unfair in eight of the 11 fields, including what it calls discriminatory restrictions on imports from Japan.

It also names South Korea, Australia, Indonesia, Canada and Thailand as nations with high tariffs.

Ford Negotiates With Mazda To Increase Sales

OW1505023192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0203 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] New York, May 14 (KYODO)—Ford Motor Co. Chairman Harold A. Polling said Thursday the U.S. automaker plans to step up sales of its cars in Japan through a joint venture with Mazda Motor Corp.

In a related development, Polling told a shareholders' meeting in New York that he supports a bill before Congress that would control Japanese car imports in the United States.

Polling told a news conference that Ford is negotiating with Mazda Motor Corp. of Japan to increase its stake in Autorama, their joint automobile sales venture in Japan.

Autorama, capitalized at 1.4 billion yen, was launched in late 1981 following Ford's acquisition of equity in Mazda in 1979. It is now owned 39 percent by Mazda, 34 percent by Ford, and 27 percent by a group of Japanese dealerships.

The company sold about 75,000 Ford cars last year, including those produced by Mazda for the U.S. automaker.

Ford has already agreed to acquire a 50 percent equity stake in Mazda's car manufacturing venture in the United States.

Polling declined to disclose details of negotiations between Ford and Mazda, but informed sources said Ford may own a controlling stake in Autorama.

Meanwhile, polling told shareholders he supports the Rostenkowski Trade Expansion Act of 1992, recently introduced in Congress by a group of lawmakers led by Dan Rostenkowski, a Democratic representative from Illinois who chairs the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee.

The bill calls for conclusion of a U.S.-Japanese agreement to control Japanese car exports to the United States, including the number of vehicles assembled at U.S. plants owned by Japanese automakers.

The issue will be broached by U.S. representatives at a high-level meeting to be held in Chicago on Monday involving U.S. and Japanese automobile industries.

Tokyo To Offer Untied Loans to East Europe

OW1505062592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0603 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 (KYODO)—Japan will offer up to 300 million U.S. dollars in untied loans to Central and Eastern Europe through the Export-Import Bank of Japan and an additional 100 million dollars for other projects through its development facilities, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said the money is part of Japan's efforts to increase cooperation with the United States in assisting development and a transition to market economies in Eastern and Central Europe.

Of the 300 million dollars being offered through the Export-Import Bank, 100 million dollars each will be earmarked for Czechoslovakia and Hungary and the remaining 100 million dollars will be shared among other East European countries, Hanabusa said.

Disbursement of the funds will be conditional, however, upon the recipients meeting as yet unspecified economic conditions, Hanabusa added.

The additional 100 million dollars to be allocated through other organizations will be disbursed through the Japan International Development Organization (JAIDO).

JAIDO will make efforts to coordinate Japanese projects with those started by U.S. and other nongovernmental and private sector assistance initiatives in Eastern and Central Europe, the ministry spokesman said.

Up to 10 million dollars will be provided through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

Hanabusa said Japan reached the decision on the assistance plans following talks this week with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, who is visiting for ceremonies marking the reversion of Okinawa to Japan in 1972.

The plans are expected to be multilateral in scope in an effort to further coordinate Japan-U.S. efforts to meet the needs of emerging democracies and market economies in Europe.

Quayle Praises Assistance Effort to East Europe

OW1505042692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0414 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 (KYODO)—U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle on Friday gave high marks to Japanese efforts to aid emerging democracies in Eastern and Central Europe, where he said "much of the new democracy, the postwar democracy began."

In a meeting with Japanese reporters, Quayle singled out Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Bulgaria as countries in need of western aid.

"If these countries don't make it, there would be interpretation that democracy, free markets, and open competition are not the way for the future," he said.

"There is a lot at risk in these countries. I'm convinced that they will make it."

Quayle is in Tokyo to attend a ceremony marking the 20th anniversary of the return of Okinawa to Japan and help facilitate progress in resolving trade issues between the two countries.

Eastern and Central Europe is "about as far away from Japanese people as you can get" with no "historical or cultural identification," Quayle said, adding he found it "very helpful" that Japan is "willing to accept new responsibility."

"I think it shows a new attitude in Japan, an attitude that we are an economic superpower, we want to work in the area of global matters," Quayle said. "This is an act of an economic superpower that recognizes her position and status in the world. So I find this is a very constructive development."

He said Japan's positive attitude will also be well received by Americans.

Asked about the possibility of restructuring the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, he said, "The security relationship and alliance between Japan and the U.S. remains the linchpin of stability here in the Pacific."

"There is no substitute for peace and there is no substitute for a strong treaty that will bring about the peace. I am convinced that forward deployed strategy will continue. But certainly in this new era that we find ourselves in, potential restructuring will be very responsible act."

He disputed the argument that the Japan-U.S. global partnership means "U.S. leadership and Japanese money."

"Global partnership is a joint effort, a joint responsibility. There is always consultation," Quayle said.

"Partnership demands togetherness. This is U.S.-Japanese leadership and U.S.-Japanese money and U.S.-Japanese responsibility and commitment around the world," he said. "I think the partnerhip can expand beyond the Pacific and it can be global."

Turning to the territorial dispute between Japan and Russia, Quayle said it is "certainly to Russia's interest to resolve this difficult situation between Russia and Japan."

Quayle said he was "struck by the deep emotional attachment Japan has with the northern territories," and that perhaps because of the Okinawa ceremony "people were reminded that Okinawa had been returned but the northern islands hadn't been returned."

The dispute over the four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido has made Japan reluctant to give substantial aid to the former Soviet republics, particularly Russia.

Quayle said Japanese assistance should not be concentrated on the eastern part of Russia. Japan, he said, "though it may have special interest in some respect to this part of Russia, cannot afford not to look at the big picture" of seeing Russia as a whole.

On Okinawa, he said the U.S. reversion in 1972 was "clearly a significant turning point in U.S.-Japan relations.

"From our view of point, I feel that this was a gracious act that signified the respect and friendship the U.S. has for Japan," he said. The reversion, he said, was "perhaps unparalleled in history but maybe others will follow our lead. Because it was the right thing to do."

Official on Hopes for OECD Council Meeting

OW1505113892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0941 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—Vice Finance Minister Hiroshi Yasuda said Friday he hopes Japan's conduct of economic policy will not be singled out at a council meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) next week.

The council gathers in Paris next Monday for a two-day meeting.

At a press conference, Yasuda said it is likely the meeting will focus on Japan's economic management, but hoped it would not be judged in isolation.

He said Tokyo wants to tell OECD members that now is the time for ascertaining the effects of the Japanese Government's emergency economic package and the official discount rate cuts.

The pump-priming package was adopted at the end of March, followed by a 0.75 percentage point cut on April 1 to an annual 3.75 percent in the official discount rate charged on the Bank of Japan's loans to commercial banks.

On the recent appreciation of the yen, Yasuda said he can tolerate a moderate rise in the currency in light of Japan's ballooning trade surplus.

On the stock market, he said the environment surrounding the market has changed.

Tokyo 'Cautious' on Emperor's Visit to PRC

OW1405134392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1337 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe indicated Thursday the Japanese Government may be backing away from a visit to China by Emperor Akihito this year.

"What is most desirable is for it (the imperial visit) to take place in the context of a highly auspicious atmosphere both in Japan and in China," Watanabe said.

"For the government's part at the moment, it is looking at it cautiously and seriously, taking all the circumstances into account," the foreign minister said at a session of the House of Councillors' Foreign Affairs Committee.

Since last year China has repeatedly invited the emperor to visit this fall to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China ties.

Watanabe's previous statements on the proposed visit have been positive, but Thursday's response was the first indication that "a highly auspicious atmosphere" would be required as a condition for the emperor's China visit.

Some members of the governing Liberal Democratic Party are taking a cautious stand on the prospect of an imperial visit to China. There have been disagreements between Japan and China in the past several months, including a dispute over ownership of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, which both countries claim.

Transport Ministry To Expand Services to China

OW1405150892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1433 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—Japan and China agreed Thursday in Beijing that one airline company or more from each country be allowed to operate services between the two, Transport Ministry officials said.

The agreement brings to three or more from the present limit of two the number of airlines from each country to fly Japan-China routes.

The two countries also agreed that Xian and Nagoya be added to the list of service points, the officials said.

The agreement came at the close of three-day bilateral civil aviation talks in the Chinese capital.

They said it was agreed the number of flights that may be operated weekly by each country be increased by seven.

Japan also won Chinese consent to the passage over China of airliners assigned to a projected Japan-Korean Peninsula-Beijing-Mongolia-Europe service, the officials said.

DPRK Confirms Yongbyon Extraction of Plutonium

OW1405161592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1524 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Beijing, May 14 KYODO—North Korea on Thursday confirmed its nuclear scientists have succeeded in extracting plutonium at its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, Japanese officials said.

Yi Sam-no, the chief North Korean negotiator to normalization talks with Japan, told his Japanese counterpart that North Korea "has extracted a bit of plutonium for research purposes," at its research facility in Yongbyon, some 88 kilometers north of Pyongyang. The officials quoted Yi as saying the "experiment" was made to use the material for peaceful purposes.

North Korea "has not yet decided to complete a nuclear fuel cycle," Yi was quoted as telling Noboru Nakahira, the chief Japanese delegate. The officials said Yi made the statements at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, where diplomatic delegations from both countries have been engaging in the seventh round of talks to normalize relations. Plutonium is a key ingredient of nuclear bombs and can be used as a material for the hydrogen bomb.

PLO Urges Tokyo To Play Key Role at Meeting

OW1505091392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0737 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—The Tokyo representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) said Friday he hopes Japan will play a leading role in helping Palestinian people solve their environmental issues at a multilateral Middle East conference in Tokyo next week.

"Environment is very important issue for our people inside the Israeli-occupied territory," said Baker Abdel Munem, head of the PLO Representative Office.

Japan will host the conference's working group on environmental issues Monday and Tuesday, which 120 officials from 36 countries will attend.

During the past two decades, Israel has occupied the territories, the Israeli Government did not protect the environment in area, and instead put forth "utmost efforts" to destroy it, Munem said.

"We hope that the international community, particularly Japan, will play a positive role in trying to repair the destruction of the environment which was done by the hands of the Israeli occupier," he said.

Munem also said the session in Tokyo would be instrumental in informing the international community about Israel's environmental destruction.

He blamed Israel for such environmental problems as waste disposal, poor sewage systems, and bad drinking water, in the occupied territories.

Munem accused Israel of stealing most of the water resources in the occupied territories.

"Only 6 percent of the Palestinian occupied land, agricultural land, is being used with irrigation," said Munem, noting Israel uses 70 percent of its water for irrigation purpose.

Munem also expressed hope that Japan would help restore the damaged land, saying that Japan has much experience in restoring the environment.

"Whether in Japan after World War II and also in the period of the boom of the industry in Japan, you have very long experiences in solving many problems on the environment," he said.

Miyazawa Interview on Past Six Months Reported

OW1505064192 Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese 0505 GMT 14 May 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa by Yuji Kuroiwa, FNN newscaster, and author Saburo Shiroyama at the prime minister's official residence; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Kuroiwa] It has already been six months now since Prime Minister Miyazawa assumed his post. Today, we would like to recall the Miyazawa cabinet's last half year. The international community is now seeking a new world order after the collapse of the cold war's antagonism, and, in this connection, Japan's international role has become the object of public attention. Regarding the domestic situation, people are wondering if we have found a way out of the recession since the demise of the so-called bubble economy, and how political reform is making progress. We whould like to thoroughly discuss these issues today. We have a famous author, Mr. Saburo Shiroyama, as a guest for today's interview. He has written about many Japanese politicians in history based on intensive research. Mr. Shiroyama, thank you for joining us today.

Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for granting us a chance to talk with you. First, how do you rate the last six months since your inauguration as prime minister?

[Miyazawa] I am still wondering if the six months have really glided away. I thought that I was coping well with my everyday duties, but now I am not sure if I really was.

[Shiroyama] From my standpoint as an observer, time seems to have raced by, but it must has been a long time for him. In my observation, Mr. Miyazawa is quite a thoughtful person, and he does not take action in a bid for popularity. He tends not to take quick action, but I think that this is a strong point. I can look upon such a stable politician with confidence; however, now that the first six months have passed already, I think he had better show his true intentions.

[Miyazawa] I see. When I assumed my post last November, I had a lot of work to do with the fiscal 1992 budget plan, and it was not easy to obtain Diet approval of the budget plan because of the Kyowa scandal and other difficulties. From the very beginning, I was forced to keep my patience to pass the budget. Even after bringing the budget into force, I had to hammer out emergency reflationary measures, and the political reform issue should also be settled within the current Diet session. Although intraparty discussions started in February, I had to wait for Diet approval of the budget before launching negotiations with the opposition.

Concerning the UN peacekeeping operations [PKO] issue, I want to pass this within the current Diet session at any rate. Since it was much more difficult to obtain the opposition's understanding of the issue, this issue was also put off until after budget deliberations.

In addition to these issues, I have met Russian President Boris Yeltsin in New York, and a Japanese-Russian peace pact was suddenly placed on the agenda. Working-level and foreign ministerial talks have already opened between the two countries, and President Yeltsin is scheduled to visit Japan in September. In past meetings with Western leaders, I strongly felt that the Group-of-Seven [G-7] nations should recognize that the territorial issue is not just a dispute in bilateral relations between Japan and Russia, but a pending problem that is essential to settle before beginning the G-7's aid programs intended for the former Soviet Union. I have recently told this to the United States, Germany, and France. Italy is already in accord with Japan on this point, but Canada's stance is yet to be confirmed. Anyway, it is important to obtain the understanding of G-7 nations on this point before the next summit talks, which are scheduled for July.

In fact, I have been working on all of these issues on a preparatory basis even before the budget passes, and I am now going to take action little by little. I guess that is what has happened in the last six months.

[Kuroiwa] Mr. Prime Minister, the mass media has described you in many ways. For example, one reporter said your face was always invisible. This was before the adoption of the budget bill, but after it was passed, your face has begun to be seen.

[Miyazawa] Well, it has been said that my face was not seen. Concerning leadership, people may think that a leader should hold out firmly by riding a white horse at the forefront while waving a flag and shouting "Charge! Charge!" I do not think it is that easy to indicate leadership in modern times.

Japan has become a fairly big country now, and, therefore, various moves are being taken here and there. In general, I feel that a leader should be someone like the captain of a tanker who is capable of keeping it balanced and of having a good view of what is happening all around. For some time, I felt that a better view of the whole situation is possible from a high place or by stepping behind; however, it seems that it will not do to take such a stance.

Well, it might be also true that since I have to work with such a large number of people in studying various factors and in handling various matters, I have come to realize later on that it is also necessary to present to our people and talk with them on something that I have studied with caution, and ask them to take a look at it or think it over carefully.

[Kuroiwa] Is that right? [Addressing Mr. Shiroyama] Mr. Shiroyama, what is your view on leadership?

[Shiroyama] Well, I think it is true that different types of leadership are required to deal with different situations. I have been watching Prime Minister Miyazawa all the time, and rather unexpectedly, I noticed that he has indicated his toughness on various occasions, such as in his dealings with the Diet. I have come to understand that as a statesman, the prime minister is tough in dealing with realistic problems. Since our people have looked forward to you as a full-fledged statesman, you must have very progressive ideas; however, it seems to me that you have not yet shown the other face as a statesman well—the one I may call aspirations or ideals; in other words, are you capable of pursuing these ideals?

I now understand that you have the toughness to overcome realistic tasks one after another. You have certainly overcome various difficulties.

For example, I can recall the student conference held between Japanese and American students in 1941, or was it in 1940?

[Miyazawa, interrupting] Yes, it was in 1941.

[Shiroyama] In 1941, right. During the war, it was certainly difficult to participate in exchanges between Japanese and American students. Then, at a time when there must have been various difficulties, you joined the Ministry of Finance [MOF]. As a young MOF official in that period under the absolute control of the military, you published very liberal articles on the economy in the MOF journal. Moreover, during the time of hard-fought battles toward the end of the war, you took action in criticizing the military when MOF was asked to provide more and more funds for war expenses. You flatly opposed the demands, saying that in that case, the country would break down. You wrote a petition or report stating that MOF officials must resist such demands even at the risk of life. You must have written it at the risk of your post and your life, too. Under such circumstances, you must have had a strong will or sternness in stating something like that. I have always hoped that since our people will be watching you all the time, you will show us that you have such a will and sternness in the future.

[Miyazawa] Mr. Shiroyama, you have written about three politicians—Etsusaburo Shiina, Shigesaburo Maeo, and Nagao. These books are all about ambitious politicians, and I really enjoyed them—also the one about Mr. Koki Hirota. I think ambition is a key word for politicians.

[Shiroyama] To start your political career, you joined a faction led by Mr. Shigesaburo Maeo. Mr. Maeo used to be a Finance Ministry official, just like you were, and, as a Finance Ministry official during wartime, he resisted the military authorities to the utmost when the Imperial Army tried to enforce the Japanese tax system in Indonesia by insisting that Indonesia's conventional tax system worked much better there. You probably felt that you wanted to join the Maeo faction to work with him as a politician, didn't you?

[Miyazawa] Yes, I actually thought so.

[Shiroyama] He was a person who had a consistent stance...

[Miyazawa, interrupting] He was once entrusted with the financial management of a military government, but he did not change his unyielding characteristics, even when dealing with the military authorities. I was really impressed by him. Later, he returned to Japan under U.S. occupation and then fought with the occupation authorities, who wanted the Japanese tax system changed. His attitude at the time was really incredible. He was eventually demoted to a lower position, and the demotion made him decide to become a politician.

[Kuroiwa] Both Mr. Maeo and you, Mr. Prime Minister, used to be known as straightforward people. Is it difficult to behave as you did when you were younger once you become a leader?

[Miyazawa] No, I do not think so. I will speak out when it is necessary to do so.

[Kuroiwa] Have you come across such occasions?

[Miyazawa] We seldom come across life-or-death questions for the nation. My everyday job is to keep the nation out of such situations. This is my primary duty. Fortunately, I have not faced life-or-death questions since I assumed office, and I must not lead the nation into such a situation because that would mean I have erred in my job. I am trying to keep this in mind, but I might have to speak out when I think it is necessary.

[Kuroiwa] Do you think such circumstances will arise in the near future?

[Miyazawa] As a matter of course, I cannot stand idly by until such circumstances occur. I must not be overly adventurous, and I must not lead the nation into a life-or-death situation. Every day, I am trying my best to lead the nation properly.

On the other hand, the world is currently undergoing drastic changes, and Japan is expected to speak out more frequently. Sometimes Japan may be asked to take concrete steps within the international community, but, in my opinion, it is much more important for the world to prevent situations that require multinational actions.

[Kuroiwa] Do you think we are discussing the UN Peacekeeping Operations [PKO] Cooperation Bill because it is about time for us to make a decision?

[Miyazawa] Well, I do not think it is as complicated as that. After the war, Japan decided never to become a military power and, thus far, Japan has held to that position. Therefore, what is important is that Japan should never take a false step away from this orientation. This is the point of the issue, and I am not concerned over this point. Since some people remain concerned, however, we are sincerely explaining that this can never happen. In this sense, the issue is not really a life-or-death question for us. I expect that the question can be resolved sensibly.

[Shiroyama] While you often refer to a life-style superpower as a goal of your administration, it is not quite easy to guess what you actually mean by these words.

[Miyazawa] As you know, a famous slogan for traffic safety campaigns asks: Where do you plan to go in such a hurry in this small country of Japan? I really like this funny slogun. Specifically, our life is not very long, and we had better not live in haste, or else we will not enjoy life. I hope everybody in the nation can feel this even though an expression like superpower may sound offensive. As a grown-up nation, Japan should provide a certain level of social infrastructure to satisfy social needs—for instance, water supplies, sewage systems, and parks. Our society also has to provide comfortable living standards. Then, after we have satisfied these basic needs, it is better for us to have a simple life-style. When we have adequate income and free time, each of us should be able to think about his or her own plan for life and his or her own sense of values. Everyone can have a different plan because things are not the same as they were during the war, when all of us were forced to unite for the nation's victory. What I mean is that we can enjoy a great life when each of us builds up his own sense of values. Politics must not and cannot touch or rule the people's minds. Happiness and satisfaction belong to the heart of every individual, and no politician can create these things. The duty of a politician is to provide circumstances under which people can seek their own happiness and satisfaction.

[Kuroiwa] In pursuing such politics, there will be problems. For example, how to deal with problems concerning food, clothing, and housing. And how will Japan actually be built into a life-style superpower?

[Miyazawa] Concerning this issue, I stated my views by citing six or seven concrete problems at the Diet sessions. Well, one of them concerns housing conditions. The housing problem exists, particularly in urban areas. Another problem also concerns urban areas. People have to spend a lot of time commuting. At present, workers throughout Japan are still working far too many hours; therefore, I think it would be desirable to shorten working hours. It is, of course, important to let old people live in peace of mind; however, they should be able to say that they are doing something for the village, that they are making some contributions. I feel that it is as important for them to have something to live for as to live in peace. In this connection, I do not think that old people will feel delighted just because they are given easy living circumstances.

In this way, I hope that our people will have their own time to engage in creating something they like or in working out their own plans for daily life. I want to create overall conditions so that our people will be able to live comfortably and well-off.

[Shiroyama] Well, I would like to point out the problem concerning the difficulty in commutation. When it comes to being a life-style superpower, I feel that the present Japan may be called a life-style superpower suffering from the serious problem of difficulty in commutation. As far as noise pollution is concerned, there is no other major power that is flooded with such serious noise pollution caused by speakers. It certainly is undesirable that Japan should continue to be a life-style superpower suffering from both commutation and noise pollution problems. They should be taken up as practical issues.

[Miyazawa, interrupting] That is quite true.

[Shiroyama] Unless measures are taken to deal with these problems as soon as possible, I feel that the situation may get worse and worse. I heard that various government agencies have been arguing about jurisdiction over these problems; therefore, it is desirable to take urgent measures to eliminate an over-concentration of government agencies in the Tokyo area and to promote decentralization of administrative power. At the same time, efforts must be made to improve conditions for commutation. I think that people residing in the metropolitan area must be complaining that nothing has been done to settle these problems.

[Miyazawa] It was in 1970 or sometime in the the 1970's that attention was suddenly centered on the serious pollution situation. At that time, many foreigners residing in Tokyo then were worried, saying that if the situation were left unchanged, Japan would certainly become hopeless; however, although it must be a rare case in the world, as a result of heightened consciousness among the people, the situation was considerably improved in 10 years. Therefore, as far as noise or other pollution problems are concerned, I feel that once people start paying attention to the problems, we are capable of resolving these problems soon.

[Shiroyama] Is that right? People have long sensed the crisis of [words indistinct]

[Miyazawa, laughing] Well, the issue also involves the land problem. The commutation problem will of course be settled through such facilities as subways and Shinkansen [bullet trains]. It is beyond doubt that this problem has to be settled through such facilities. Subways have certainly become of much use to us now.

[Kuroiwa] The point at issue lies in what measures should be taken now to deal with inconveniences that we have come to feel through our personal experiences. When it comes to settling these problems, the issue arises that excessive power seems to have become concentrated in the central government. Local governments exist merely in name, and it is rather difficult for them to deal with the actual situation.

In this sense, the situation of over-concentration of power should be abolished; however, such dynamic reforms cannot be achieved under the existing political system. Therefore, for instance, the former governor of Kumamoto Prefecture Morihito Hosokawa stated the other day that it would not do to carry on the current political situation and there would be no other alternative but to pursue politics with entirely different ideas from the current ones. What do you think of such a move?

[Miyazawa] Well, I do not agree with what he said. Usually, actions taken are rather slow once the problem gets involved with rights of various government agencies. Perhaps there are people who may feel desperate about the situation; however, I do not think so. Since government officials themselves are human beings, they are well aware what the people demand in general.

The problem lies in giving guidance to them. Ever since the Meiji Period, we have adopted as our life work the goal of "national wealth and military strength" [fukoku kyohei]. The administration is used to standing on the side of the producers, or the manufacturers of goods, and not the side of the consumers, or the recipients of services. That is why, while we are aware of the complaints of foreign countries against our exports, we find it difficult to change our attitude. Changing this will solve the problem. The bureaucrats study hard. Mr. Shiroyama once wrote somewhere that bureaucrats are arrogant. While there may be some truth to that, bureaucrats have not forgotten their obligation to serve the people. However, what is also necessary is a leader who tells them what they think to be good work actually is actually bad.

[Kuroiwa] There is criticism that power is too concentrated on the bureaucrats, and that they hold too much authority. What do you think?

[Miyazawa] Bureaucrats should have as little power as possible. Power should be delegated to the local governments, or transferred from government to the private sector. We are aware of this and have been trying hard to achieve it. If you say that what you see falls short of the desired results, I agree with you. However, I think the direction of their efforts, of what they are trying hard to do, is not wrong.

[Shiroyama] [passage omitted; portion not recorded due to technical problems] In foreign countries heated debates often occur, and a central bank governor may threaten to resign. In the case of Japan, what looks like confrontation is somehow settled amicably in the end. The atmosphere is too much like a social club [nakayoshi club].

[Miyazawa interrupts] You dislike that? As an observer, are you irritated by such a situation?

[Shiroyama] Well, there is a lack of rigorous discussion from which a conclusion is reached.

[Miyazawa] With regard to what you are talking about [an incident at the time Miyazawa was finance minister], I was fully aware of how long it would take and in what manner the problem would be solved, and I also knew very well Mr. Mieno's thinking. Both of us knew very well. Under the circumstances, the governor of the Bank of Japan assumed his responsibility and did what he had to do. Personally, I think what happened was quite natural. Well, if people can argue in public and forget about it afterwards, that will indeed be a way of doing things. However, in our country an argument always leaves behind some sort of aftertaste. How shall I put it? It is like the Bank of Japan and the Export-Import Bank are each defending a castle. It is like a battle between castles during feudal times. It is not good for an unpleasant aftertaste to remain. However, that is the case in Japan. Maybe it is because we know each other too well.

[Shiroyama] For example, I heard from Mr. Yohei Kono that his father, Mr. Ichiro Kono, once said that during gatherings of the younger politicians, only the politicians came; their wives never participated. This was allegedly to ensure that politicians retain the freedom to fight with anybody. I think it is very important for politicians to have the freedom to fight with anybody. Why this social club atmosphere?

[Miyazawa] That is true. We Japanese associate with each other as if we are all relatives, and in a sense we understand each other very well. We see quite an opposite society in the United States, where legal actions are frequently taken to solve various problems. That is their own way of settling things. On the contrary, Japan has chosen quite an opposite way, and the mechanism has functioned well so far. However Lester Thurow, an economic professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, warns in his book that the Japanese mechanism will not function in the future. He asks which nation will be prosperous in the 21st century. Although many say that Japan will be the one to be prosperous in the 21st century, it is doubtful because Japan tends only to deal with matters internally, and rejects—or rather is inflexible—in accepting things from outside, he said. Professor Thurow warns that a mechanism which tries to tackle only internal matters will not function in an age of various international exchanges, including technology cooperation. We should keep his warning in mind. It seems what you have just pointed out has gradually become a problem in Japan.

[Shiroyama] When you attended the Japanese-U.S. Students Conference, you said you were astonished at differences between Japanese and U.S. students. You said Japanese students tended to state unified opinions, which surprised the U.S. side, while U.S. students tended to express their own opinions. Has the tendency remained unchanged?

[Miyazawa] I was astonished at the way U.S. students express their opinions and thought—this is democracy. During wartime, we Japanese were taught the same things with the same government-censored textbooks. This method I believe controlled the people's opinions. Although we do not use such textbooks any more, the Japanese tend to be influenced and guided in one direction by the mass media, which is very influential in Japan. Some may argue with my opinion, but the fact is that although we abandoned the government-censored textbooks, the mass media—which is capable of controlling public opinion—emerged instead. Do you not think so?

[Shiroyama] Well, you mentioned in your book that you have learned from U.S. ways that individuality and generosity are important. I think the most fearful thing is that everybody goes in the same direction.

[Miyazawa] I agree. I do not mean to criticize Japanese mass media, but it should use its capability in better ways. When the Gulf war broke out and the former Soviet Union disintegrated, people were informed by media of the matters the next day. Because of immediate reports from mass media, people can decide what they should do. As such, mass media is very useful. It has always been useful in the postwar era. However, a negative aspect of mass media is that it tends to control public opinions and only a small number of people can express their own opinions.

[Shiroyama] Take the case of schools, for example. Schools make time announcements at the beginning and end of classes by using speakers. Reportedly, a private school decided to stop that practice. What happened then was that all students checked the time by themselves and made it to class on time. So some people say it is not necessary to ring chimes through a speaker. In other words, the students can take care of themselves. Nevertheless, many schools have been using speakers for many years. They are abusing the use of speakers, creating noise pollution, and educating children in a way convenient to themselves.

[Miyazawa] You said that all the students checked the time and made it to class on time. Well, it is something characteristic of the Japanese. Some students in some countries may not do that.

[Kuroiwa] What I am going to say may slightly differ from what we have been discussing, but I think one of the things that everybody agrees on is the northern territorial issue. The people want the northern territories to be returned soon. I know it is almost impossible for a prime minister to remain in his post for dozens of years. Is there something that you are determined to do within a limited term of office, even at the risk of your career?

[Miyazawa] Yes. I am staking my career on that.

[Kuroiwa] You mean the northern territorial issue?

[Miyazawa] Yes. A Japan-USSR peace negotiation was held in 1951. Gromyko was the chief delegate of the Soviet Union. When I became foreign minister over twenty years later, he was still the Soviet Union's foreign minister. Gromyko worked out of the San Francisco peace talks. Because of that, we still do not have a peace accord with the Soviet Union [as heard]. Only a few of those who attended the talks are still living. I carefully observed the events that followed the talks. When I became foreign minister, I negotiated with Gromyko, who was still foreign minister. Because of that, I think this issue has to be settled now, and for good. I think the time is ripe because the Soviet leaders [as heard] are now able to say, at least, that what Stalin did was wrong. Well, some people are saying that there is no need to return the islands. It is not an easy thing to settle. But the Gorbachev and Yeltsin governments were created on the basis of denial of Stalinism. We mutually understand that [Russia] has to keep good relations with Japan in order to build up its country. I think that if we do not settle the dispute now, then it will not be resolved.

[Kuroiwa] Does that mean future historians, when they look back and ask themselves what the Miyazawa cabinet did, will say your cabinet realized the return of the northern territories?

[Miyazawa] Well, I never though about that. But for the reasons I have just described, I feel one of the tasks I have to complete is to settle the territorial issue.

[Kuroiwa] Is this exactly what you are determined to do as prime minister or do you have...?

[Miyazawa, interrupting] Well, this issue ultimately requires very strong determination. We need to devise a way and create an environment in which they can easily make up their mind. My recent trip to Germany and France was one of those steps. Even if the Russian leaders themselves agree with us, this issue cannot be solved by one person because there are 200 million people living there. It is easy for those who receive the islands, but it is not an easy matter for those who have to return the islands. Therefore, we have to create an overall background by taking everything into consideration. However, I think that now is the time to do that.

[Kuroiwa] Does this mean that you will make some sort of decision regarding economic support, for example, in order to create an environment for Russia?

[Miyazawa] It is a matter of balance, so to speak. We have to give them major support, and they have to understand that such support is an expression of our goodwill and friendship. Otherwise the Japanese may not readily approve such support. If they understand our situation, then we can do that. Therefore, I think this is a matter of balance.

[Shiroyama] It is said that politicians have to have the highest level of national morals. There were such politicians in the Showa period. However, some people say that it is... to expect the unrealistic politicians to practice morals.

[Miyazawa] I have read that in books. Well, I hardly knew Mr. Hamaguchi because he was in a higher place. But I do agree with him.

[Kuroiwa] That means political reform, under the current political situation, is....

[Miyazawa, interrupting] That is right. I do not mean this applies to everybody. My father was also a politician. Compared to my classmates, I was not financially blessed. It may not be a good expression, but you know some people are good at making money and some are not. Children of politicians were not well off. My father's annual salary was 3,000 yen; this means his monthly salary was 250 yen. This was the salary of a salaried worker who was in a slightly higher position than section chief at that time. Prefectural assemblymen had to face elections. We were not rich. Therefore, [word indistinct] did not happen because I liked it. It naturally became like that.

[Shiroyama] Conversely speaking, politicians could not become rich, but they could run in elections, if they wanted, within the limit of their incomes. That means politicians started to spend money for politics at a certain stage following World War II.

[Miyazawa] I think so.

[Shiroyama] That is right. Some people become richer every time an election is held.

[Miyazawa, laughingly] Let me take my case for example. There was an election every two years at that time. I heard that my father spent not quite, but close to, 10,000 yen for each election. His annual income was 3,000 yen, which was not enough to cover expenses. So I think some of his friends gave him honest money to cover the shortfall, although it was not a big amount. I think that was a common practice during these days. Some people say politicians need money for politics, but I think politicians started to spend money for politics.

[Siroyama] That is right. Why can't we stop politics that need money right now, rather than rearranging precincts or promoting reform to change the system?

[Miyazawa] Well, Mr. Shiroyama, we have begun to do something. The most important factor is the problem of ceremonial occasions—for example, efforts to send flowers or give presents. If you want to do this without fail in the entire electoral district, you have to have a secretary in each local area. The wages for these secretaries immediately become a tremendous burden for younger politicians. If you have 20 secretaries, that means an expense of at least 4 to 5 million yen a month, even if you hire part-timers. First we said that had to stop, and there has been great improvement in the situation. There is still the problem of excessive use of posters. That should also be stopped as much as possible because it costs a lot of money. We are starting to eliminate such things one by one.

[Kuroiwa] The people all believe that political reform is absolutely necessary. However, politicians are the ones who are actually responsible for this. People have always doubted whether these politicians are competent and whether their trust has been betrayed many times.

[Miyazawa] For a time it seemed that the prohibition on giving presents during weddings and sending flowers during funerals was against the social norm. I think the voters will now understand if we say: I am sorry, but that is the regulation. If we politicians do not take the first step, and both sides just keep on blaming the other, nothing will happen. The rule now says Diet members should stop, and I think we can see the consequent improvement in the situation.

[Kuroiwa] Former Prime Minister Kaifu used such terms as "unshakable determination" and "staking his political career" in relation to political reform. Mr. Prime Minister....

[Miyazawa interrupts] A number of laws will be adopted in the Diet. I think significant legislations will be passed after deliberations among political parties. The consultative body is now engaged in deliberations, and a number of laws will be passed before the end of the present Diet session. I believe that the problems you just mentioned will be rectified to a considerable extent.

[Kuroiwa] We have very little time left. Mr. Shiroyama, what is your impression of the interview today?

[Shiroyama] Well, now I understand the circumstances very well. [laughter] My starting point is that the prime minister has had lofty ideals since his younger days as a bureaucrat. I would like to see such ideals expressed in a concrete form as soon as possible—although there were already a few instances in the past when this happened.

[Miyazawa] Yes, I will bear this in mind. I believe something has to be done.

[Kuroiwa] What would you like the people to look forward to from now on in the Miyazawa administration?

[Miyazawa] I am not good at telling people to look at me. Although my administration has had a rather slow start, I am quite clear about what has to be done. I intend to earnestly tackle the issues we just mentioned one by one, and I request the people's cooperation.

[Kuroiwa] Through this interview, I have come to feel that after six months in power the Miyazawa administration—which has been the subject of great expectations as a regime with real powers—is beginning to show its character in various issues, including the PKO and the northern territories issues mentioned today. I would like to watch future developments. Thank you.

[Miyazawa] Thank you.

Hata Rejects Call for Supplementary Budget

OW1505031292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0248 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 (KYODO)—Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Friday brushed aside the possibility that the government would adopt a supplementary budget at an early date this year.

Hata, at a regular news conference after a cabinet meeting, referred to recent comments made by U.S. Treasury Undersecretary David Mulford. On Wednesday the U.S. official said that Japan should take additional measures to prop up its economy, including a supplementary budget.

Hata said, "(Japan) should rather continue to monitor the effects of its pump-priming measures which are already taken."

He also praised the yen's advance against the U.S. dollar over the past few days, saying it is "coming to reflect the accord on foreign exchange (made) by the financial authorities of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations in their latest meeting, as well as Japan's economic fundamentals."

Regarding moves by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to tighten control on the nonbank industry, Hata said there may be a need to change related regulations.

The nonbanks' presence in the society has become larger, and for sound expansion of the industry it is necessary to clear up problems, he said.

Some industry watchers say that Japanese nonbank financial institutions, after overinvesting in speculative property investment in past years, are now struggling with financial difficulties after the collapse of Japan's "bubble" economy.

As a result, there is growing call for the government to guide the nonbanks toward sound management, they said.

MITI Asks More Measures To Stimulate Economy

OW1505021792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0209 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 (KYODO)—International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe said Friday the government should be prepared to take additional measures to stimulate the domestic economy.

Watanabe told reporters Japan is expected to come under pressure to take such measures at the Munich Summit of seven major industrialized nations in July.

In March, the government unveiled a set of pump-priming measures, including the heavy front loading of public works appropriations for fiscal 1992, which began April 1.

Watanabe predicted the economic planning agency will come up with a severe outlook for the Japanese economy in its monthly report later this month.

He reiterated that a second round of economic measures is necessary for the government to achieve its goal of an inflation-adjusted 3.5 percent economic growth for the current fiscal year.

Paper Urges Smaller Firms To Take Action

OW1505105992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1003 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 KYODO—Japan's smaller companies, suffering from severe business conditions, should take quick measures to cope with the serious shortage of labor and rationalize distribution, a government report obtained Friday by KYODO News Service says.

The fiscal 1991 report on small- and medium-sized companies, slated to be presented to the cabinet May 22, said that amid the nation's economic slowdown, smaller businesses, especially those in the manufacturing and housing-related sectors, showed poor performance in fiscal 1991, which ended March 31.

Soaring land prices and the high cost of capital spending, which have discouraged newcomers from starting up businesses, could dampen the energy of industry, the report said.

It stressed the need for prompt action to ensure labor supply and streamline distribution control.

According to the report, the business performance of smaller companies turned downward in mid-1991, with business conditions in the Kanto and Kinki urban regions deteriorating rapidly first.

The economic slowdown gradually spread to local areas after hitting major cities, the report said.

Considering the sharp year-on-year rise in bankruptcy cases and the size of the debts left behind, as well as the difficulties of fund raising, it is necessary to carefully monitor smaller businesses, particularly subcontractors, it said.

The proportion of businesses newly set up fell to nearly 4 percent, compared with some 6 percent 10 years earlier, with independent businesses started by newcomers down especially sharply, the report said.

Responsible for the drop were the advanced technology required to establish new businesses and the difficulty of securing employees, as well as the high land prices, it said,.

Because of an increasing gap in productivity between smaller and leading firms, notably in the area of technology development, there is a possibility of smaller companies being left far behind unless they make more efforts to trim their distribution costs, the report said.

Referring to speculative investment in stocks, with which some companies were blamed after the collapse of the "bubble" economy, the report said smaller companies were relatively less affected by plunging stock prices because most of them invested in real assets even when stock prices were on the upward trend.

The labor shortage remained serious even after Japan's economy slowed, and has become a long-term challenge for smaller companies, the report said.

To cope with the labor shortage, the report urged such companies to take measures to cut working hours, provide adequate welfare facilities, and improve their corporate image, so as to avoid being compared unfavorably with major companies.

Ministry Unveils New Farming Reform Policy

OW1405055592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0353 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—The Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry unveiled Thursday the outline of a new farm policy calling for comprehensive structural reform to strengthen Japan's agriculture toward the 21st century.

The policy, called the New Food and Agrarian Plan, aims to trim the number of farming households and develop large-scale rice growers to pave the way for introduction of the principle of the market economy [words indistinct] the ministry said.

Under the plan, the number of farming households will be cut from 3.83 million in 1990 to 2.5 million to 3.0 million in 2000, and the new total will include 350,000 to 400,000 large-scale farming households.

Ministry officials said the plan is designed to raise the income of farmers and reduce their working hours to the levels of other industries.

The plan calls for development of 50,000 large-scale rice growing households with 10 to 20 hectares of land each, and an additional 100,000 growers with five to 10 hectares each.

In addition, the officials said the smaller-scale farming households across the nation will be organized into 40,000 to 50,000 collective organizations to streamline their production.

As for the ongoing reduction of rice growing acreage under the supervision of the ministry, the plan calls for production adjustment at the risk and discretion of farmers themselves.

The officials said the outline was presented to an agricultural panel of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party on Thursday for a further review.

The committee plans to work out a basic program for reforms in early June, they said.

LDP Proposal for Environment Ministry Supported

OW1205051192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0303 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Masami Tanabu on Tuesday said he supports the Liberal Democratic Party's [LDP] tentative plan to establish an environment ministry.

"Environment administration can no longer be conducted by separate sectors. It will be great to set up a ministry which coordinates and controls those activities (among separate government sectors)," he said.

The idea is reportedly being examined by an LDP panel, with the aim of formulating a comprehensive environmental protection law.

Tanabu also told reporters that simple-minded opposition to all development projects will not be acceptable in the future.

He said it is now important to establish clear guidelines for development projects and construction plans, under a facility such as an environment ministry, to establish a balance between these interests and those of environmental conservation.

Fujitsu Develops New Ozone Monitoring System

OW1205123192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 12 KYODO—Fujitsu Ltd. said Tuesday it has developed a new electric wave detection system capable of measuring the ozone layer in the upper atmosphere more accurately than conventional models.

The computer maker jointly developed the detection system with researchers at Nagoya University, company officials said.

The detector, which employs Josephson devices and superconducting microelectronic circuits, enables scientists to monitor changes in the ozone layer faster and more precisely, they said.

Scientists have discovered that the ozone layer is thinning out due to chemical compounds being released into the atmosphere. The ozone layer protects living organisms from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.

Fujitsu said conventional laser radar systems and millimeter wave spectroscopy used to monitor changes in the ozone layer are hampered by bad weather and the lower sensitivity of semiconductor devices.

The new system can provide more accurate readings of the ozone layer up to an altitude of 80 kilometers despite poor weather conditions.

It also reduces the amount of time required to measure the ozone layer to five minutes from the one hour currently needed with conventional systems.

Data obtained in testing during the past four months at Nagoya University were confirmed with a laser radar system used by the National Institute for Environmental Studies in Tsukuba, Ibaraki Prefecture, Fujitsu said.

Research Vessel To Study Pollution of Seas

OW1205091692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0647 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] Shizuoka, May 12 KYODO—The first of some 20 Japanese fishing vessels equipped to cooperate with a Fisheries Agency study of pollution in the open seas will leave port Thursday, the agency's Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratories said here Tuesday.

The Kanki Maru No. 38, a tuna fishing vessel chartered by the agency, will leave Miyako, Iwate Prefecture and cooperate with the long-range research project by gathering samples of seawater, marine products, and the atmosphere to analyze them for trash and chemical pollutants.

According to the agency's plans, about 20 open seas fishing vessels will monitor some 140 points in the Pacific, Atlantic, Arctic, and Antarctic Oceans in an effort to gauge the effects of pollution on the open seas.

The investigation, which is scheduled to continue for a number of years, is also an effort to demonstrate that Japanese fisheries are making considerable efforts to preserve the environment, despite being under severe international criticism for whaling and drift-net practices.

The crew of the Kanki Maru No. 38 will be taking samples to test for concentrations of chemicals and pesticides in the seawater and marine products, as well as the presence of oil and plastic particles in the water.

The ship is expected to return to port in mid-August after sailing the Arctic Ocean and toward Hawaii.

Hitachi Develops 'Bloch Line' Memory Device

OW0805085592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0742 GMT 08 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 8 KYODO—Hitachi Ltd. said Friday it has developed an advanced memory device that can store information equal to a year's worth of a daily newspaper.

The chip, with much longer access time than other memories on the market, will allow higher capacity computer memory chips and floppy disks, which could hold more than 10 billion bits of computerized information at one time, company officials said.

They said Hitachi hopes to commercialize in about five years the "Bloch line" memory, which can hold information almost indefinitely, yet can be easily erased and reprogrammed, and keep data in storage even if power is shut off.

The chip is cheaper to make than current four-megabit memory chips, which require finer processing techniques, the officials said.

But they said the chip has an access time of several thousandths of a second, much slower than fast random-access memory (RAM) devices, used as main memory units in computers and other electronics equipment. RAM devices can transfer data from memory to the central processing unit and back in 100 nanoseconds or less. (A nanosecond is one billionth of a second.)

Hence, Hitachi envisions using the new device in floppy disks, integrated-circuit memory cards, and other electronic equipment that do not require high-speed access, they said.

Hitachi researchers built the device, which measures 2.5 centimeters by 1.5 centimeters, using conventional photo-etching technology now used to make semiconductor memories.

North Korea

2d Day of Talks With Japan in Beijing Detailed

SK1505035392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] The full-dress intergovernmental talks for the normalization of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan continued yesterday [14 May] in Beijing. According to a briefing given by Yi Sam-no, our government delegation head, after the morning meeting, the question of compensation, the second agenda item, was discussed at the talks.

In its address, our side indicated, citing a few reasons, that it is more necessary for Japan to sincerely reflect on and apologize for its crimes committed against our people and to make proper material compensation to improve its marred international image than it is for another and that, therefore, it should faithfully solve this problem for itself.

Our side said that compensation is an issue for Japan itself, because it is a question of human conscience and reason related to the human rights and it is a yardstick measuring the Japanese Government's view of moral value, and continued: The issue of Korean comfort women being an unprecedentedly heinous inhumane crime committed under the name of the state of Japan has already been revealed as an irrefutable fact. As the jargon 29 to one, that is, the 29 to one which spread among Japanese Army soldiers, proves, the Japanese Army prescribed as a basis one comfort woman to deal with 29 Japanese Army soldiers a day, and met most of these demands by forcibly taking innocent Korean women, ranging from young girls in their teens to young married women, who had their rights deprived under the colonial rule. This is a secret which has already been revealed to the world.

In a bid to hide the Korean comfort women issue behind a black curtain of history the Japanese Government authorities had tried to find excuses ever since the first round of talks, saying that the Japanese Government has no responsibility for the issue because civilian groups were involved in it. Today, as the truth of the issue has been revealed, however, the Japanese Government authorities have reluctantly admitted the Japanese Army's involvement in the comfort women issue, and yet they do not sincerely reflect on this issue and are trying to evade compensation for it.

Our side revealed that history is thoroughly indicting the Japanese militarists' criminal act of having forcibly taken Korean women for use as sexual slaves. This did not begin with the establishment of Japanese military brothels after the Sino-Japanese War but was perpetrated prior to that, from the 1920's. Then, to verify such a fact our side quoted a comfort woman's testimony.

Our side once again strongly called for the Japanese Government to totally investigate and make public the inhumane atrocities that it committed against Korean women in the entire period of its colonial rule over Korea. Then, our side clarified that if the Japanese Government authorities had purified their conscience and reason after World War II they should feel shame for their beast-like atrocities uprecedented in history and should not try to replace them with the property claim.

Next, our side said that compensation is an issue for Japan itself, because it is a criterion of judgment showing whether it is assuring the international community of its will not to repeat its history of aggression through practical deeds and not by words, and stressed: Whether or not Japan will assume responsibility before history for human damages, including the Korean comfort woman issue, not only shows whether or not it will liquidate its wrong past before the international community, but will also become a criterion of confirmation for its future will on whether or not to repeat its past crimes.

If Japan completely liquidates the past through sufficient compensation, it will be not only the material evidence of reflection showing that Japan has completely repented for the crimes committed in the past but also the material impetus to impart to its future generations the serious lesson that the history of aggression must not be repeated.

Our side noted the need for Japan to materially guarantee its promise that it will not repeat its past wrongdoings and, at the same time, to let the Japanese people, the new generations in particular, know correctly the truth about the sufferings and damages forced on peoples in Asia, including the Korean people, by Japan.

Next, our side stressed: Compensation is an issue for Japan itself, because it will serve as a practical sign showing whether Japan has freed itself or not from the old national clannish way of thinking, which can be said to be the ideological source of the Japanese militarist aggression in the past. No racial or national discrimination can be tolerated in the international community now. It has become a universal custom to transcend border and tribal differences when it comes to compensating for humanitarian damage done in the past. However, it is a common understanding not only in Asia, but also in the world at large that Japan, of all countries, has not been freed from the old national clannish way of thinking and remains unchanged in the question of its postwar apology and compensation.

Our side clearly revealed the following: Even after Japan had made enormous compensation in the postwar period for the war victims and their surviving relatives with an assortment of laws legislated to compensate its own people, it is now trying to avoid compensation for the peoples in other countries. This is nothing but a vivid expression of national clannishness. This is clearly expressed in the fact that when it recruited people from other countries, the Japanese Government called them citizens of the imperial state [Japan], but when it comes to the question of compensation, it refuses to do so under the poor pretext of different nationalities.

Then, our side once again stressed the need for Japan to make material guarantees to show its will to make a clean separation from its past after boldly freeing itself from the old way of thinking, which is to look down on and belittle other peoples in Asia, claiming that its people are superior.

The talk continued in the afternoon.

According to Yi Sam-no, our government delegation head, who spoke to the reporters at the end of the afternoon talks, the two countries discussed the compensation issue and the third agenda item at the talks.

Speaking about the compensation issue, the Japanese side repeated the trite argument that it should be resolved, under all circumstances, within the framework of property claims and that the claimant must first present objective facts and legal grounds for compensation.

The Japanese side had not mentioned a word about the comfort women corps, and this infuriated the conscience of the people throughout the world until our side pressed Japan to make compensation for the comfort women corps. Japan took an extremely unjust attitude of asking our side to come up with legal grounds and only then would it handle the issue within the framework of property claims.

Our side exposed that the Japanese side's attitude as such is completely contradictory to its earlier remarks in the past rounds of talks in which it regretted its past imposition of sufferings on the Korean people.

Unable to rebut this, the Japanese side made a poor excuse that it was in no position to make responsible remarks at present, as the comfort women corps was under investigation.

Our side asked the Japanese side to explain how long it will keep investigating the case when the former comfort women are passing away one after another due to old age. Our side then stressed: If Japan tries to solve the issue of the comfort women corps within the framework of property claims, for which it should make compensation as a matter of course, not only all the Korean people, but world public opinion, will never condone such a deed that runs counter to humanitarian consideration.

Our side fully proved that the Japanese side's argument on property claims is a far-fetched one that is quite contrary to reason from the political and legal viewpoint and in light of international norms.

Saying that the argument about property claims is not convincing to anyone politically or ethically, our side noted the following:

The Japanese side talked about property claims, arguing that relations between Korea and Japan have been characterized as creditor-debtor or right of property ownership between individuals. However, under no circumstances can we view past relations like this.

It is undeniable that relations between Korea and Japan were those of assailant-victim in which Japan, after occupying Korea, enforced colonial rule against the people's will and imposed indescribable misfortunes and disasters on them, causing them enormous material loss and spiritual and physical pain.

So the Japanese side's argument about property claims is nothing but a ploy to avoid taking the responsibility for compensating the humanitarian and material loss Japan inflicted upon the Korean people.

Our side also said that the argument about property claims is far-fetched and contrary to reason even in legal terms.

Our side stressed that our demand for compensation is extremely just. It is compensation for the material resources criminally plundered by the Japanese militarists that should be returned to the original owners the Korean people.

Noting that the Japanese side's insistence on handling the question of compensation for humanitarian loss within the framework of property claims is absurd, our side continued: Compensation for damage is related to inhuman crimes: the abuse of the Korean people's human rights and indiscriminate massacre of people by the Japanese militarists. This question, which addresses relations between the murderer and murdered, is entirely different from property ownership or property claims.

Our side cited various examples to prove that the international norm for postwar settlement takes the form of compensation instead of property claims.

Saying that the only case of postwar settlement in the form of property claim was the Japan-ROK agreement signed between Japan and the South Korean authorities, our side stressed that under no circumstances could we accept the Japanese side's attempt to settle its past with us with the property claim doctrine, the form of a Japan-ROK agreement, a far cry from the international norm.

Saying that the property claim Japan signed with South Korea in the 1960's can convince no one today, when the perception of human rights is so different, our side noted that beginning with the first round of talks it brought up compensation for humanitarian loss, including the comfort girl corps which has created a great uproar throughout the world, as an important question reflecting the changes in value regarding human rights.

Our side again called on the Japanese side to respond affirmatively to our legitimate demand for compensation, instead of clinging to the property claim doctrine, in order for the DPRK and Japan to liquidate the legacy of the old times and to build relations of amity and neighborliness on a new foundation.

Next, our side logically demonstrated the unjustness of the Japanese side's insistence that we present data to prove our suffering.

Our side said: When talking about evidence of suffering forced upon the Korean people by the Japanese, it is evident that the Japanese side bears the legal and administrative duty to systematically compile and keep the data on the suffering imposed on the Korean people in files, because during the Japanese occupation Korean people were deprived of their administrative rights and the right to see if the Japanese appropriately executed the state affairs of government offices.

Our side then noted: This notwithstanding, the Japanese side tried to pass onto us the responsibility for furnishing such data. This is like a thief calling others thieves.

Our side recalled the data showing the old Japanese Army's involvement in the comfort girl corps, which has been brought to light recently from documents found in the Japan Defense Agency archives. We stressed that Japan's demand that we furnish the data on crimes secretly committed by the Japanese imperial army is preposterous and can never be justified.

Our side also said that the Japanese demand that we provide evidence of the damage Japan inflicted on us cannot be justified in view of the essential content of the DPRK-Japan talks and indicated: The purpose of the DPRK-Japan talks is in essence to establish relations of amity and friendship on the basis of Japan's sincere apology for the misfortune and loss that it had imposed on the Korean people in the past. It is therefore reasonable for Japan, the perpetrator, to tell the truth about the misfortune and suffering it inflicted on our people. Nevertheless, Japan called for us to present evidence of damage. This reveals Japan's real intention to outwardly apologize, fearing international public opinion, but not to liquidate the unhappy past.

Our side again strongly urged the Japanese side to sincerely investigate and make public the materials about the damage it imposed on our people and to sincerely discuss this issue.

In the discussion of the third item on the ageneda, the Japanese side talked nonsense, contending that the doubt about nuclear development could not be dispelled without North-South simultaneous inspection, even though the problem of nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] was solved.

Our side strongly condemned this attitude of the Japanese side as a base act, creating a new obstacle to North-South simultaneous inspection before the DPRK-Japan talks by changing its previous stand—that if we accept the IAEA's nuclear inspection it will not present this problem as a precondition for DPRK-Japan talks. Then our side referred to our active and forward-looking measures for a solution to the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula.

As to the North-South simultaneous inspection that the Japanese side brought up, our side stressed that our republic raised this issue in the past and our assertion is to provide a firm guarantee for denuclearization of the Korean peninsula by conducting a full-scale inspection of U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea.

Our side said that if only some specific areas are inspected as called for by South Korea, denuclearization of the Korean peninsula cannot be guaranteed. We stressed that if the Japanese side sincerely wants denuclearization of the Korean peninsula it should urge the South Korean authorities to accept North-South simultaneous inspection at an early date.

Even today when our nuclear inspection problem is on the brink of a complete settlement Japan is still expressing so-called apprehensions and doubt about nuclear development. This is because Japan does not need a North Korea without nuclear weapons; it actually needs a North Korea with nuclear weapons. In other words, Japan needs an excuse for its nuclear armament.

Stressing that today when denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is being realized and the nuclear threat in Northeast Asia is coming from Japan, our side indicated: Japan is seeking to become a military big power commensurate with its economic power by producing, importing, and storing more plutonium than needed. This proceeds from its wild ambition to become a nuclear big power. In light of Japan's nuclear technology, it can become a nuclear big power overnight capable of manufacturing thousands of nuclear bombs with the plutonium it has now, if it intends to do so. If Japan, which is dreaming of its past militarism, had thousands and tens of thousands of nuclear weapons, not only the Korean peninsula but the world will face a serious nuclear threat. The world should enhance vigilance against Japan's ambition for nuclear arming and should prevent it from being realized.

Our side stressed that the Japanese Government authorities should not speak foolishly and throw a wet blanket on the process of our nuclear inspection, which is being smoothly carried out, but renounce at once their wild ambition for the conversion of their country into a military power and for its nuclear arming, thus dispelling international misgivings and apprehensions and contributing to peace and security in Northeast Asia and the rest of the world. The talks continue.

Nuclear Energy Minister Meets IAEA's Blix

SK1505110192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 15 (KCNA)—Talks were held here today between the Ministry of Nuclear Energy Industry of the DPRK and the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

Present at the talks on our side were Minister of Nuclear Energy Industry Choe Hak-kun and officials concerned and on the opposite side were IAEA General Director Hans Blix and his party.

At the talks the sides exchanged views on the issue of strengthening cooperation in atomic energy and on a series of matters of common concern.

Chief Liaison Officials Discuss Joint Committees

SK1505112192 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1043 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Panmunjom May 15 (KCNA)—Contacts between chief liaison officials of both sides to the North-South high-level talks took place at the Tongil House in our side's portion of Panmunjom this afternoon.

Discussed at the contacts were practical matters for the formation and operation of the military, economic, and social and cultural joint committees.

ROK Sincerity on Nuclear Issue Questioned

SK1405150692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 13 May 92

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "Do They Have the Will To Faithfully Implement the Joint Declaration on Denuclearization?"]

[Text] The fourth round of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] was held in Panmunjom on 12 May. Even though steps to implement the North-South agreement were taken at the recently held 7th round of the North-South high-level talks, no progress has been made in resolving the nuclear issue.

Because the fourth round of the North-South JNCC was held with a limited time frame for accepting documents verifying the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, the meeting drew the people's special attention. However, the meeting's results did not meet people's expectations because the South side, adhering to an unjust allegation, created an artificial stumbling block to the talks.

The annexed agreement to implement the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization, which should be adopted at the JNCC, should include the general contents of the joint declaration since the goal of the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization lies not in simply verifying whether nuclear weapons are developed or not, but lies in basically removing the danger of a nuclear war from our country.

However, the South side said that since the agreement clauses of the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization are optional clauses, it is not necessary to adopt an agreement to implement the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization and once again did not put forward a draft of agreement.

The South side basically has no will to resolve our country's nuclear issue by comprehensively and thoroughly implementing the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization. The South side came to discuss the agreement according to our momentous proposal and just demand, yet we cannot know what stance the South side will take to resolve the issue.

Inspection regulations, put forward by the South side, are not just. To conduct nuclear inspection justly, inspection targets should be decided upon and inspection teams should be organized to simultaneously disseminate doubts of both sides. In addition, the first inspection should simultaneously inspect all targets.

However, the South side persistently adheres to its proposal of a special mutual simultaneous inspection. It's proposal does not include in its list of inspection targets the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea. Such an allegation should not be accepted.

The nuclear issue and the danger of nuclear war originates from the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea. Apart from such issues, it is impossible to consider the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Under the circumstances in which we are expected to receive nuclear inspection according to the Nuclear Safeguards Accord signed with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the inspection of U.S. nuclear bases in South Korea is an urgent issue that brooks no further delay and is a basic issue for realizing denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

Under circumstances wherein the South Korean authorities declared the absence of nuclear weapons and the United States vowed that it will open its bases in South Korea for inspection, there remains no pretext or reason for South Korea to ignore our demand for simultaneous inspection.

The point is whether the South side has the will to disseminate world doubt concerning nuclear weapons and whether the South side genuinely takes the stance to realize denuclearization?

The South side tries to exclude U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea from inspection and objects to our proposal that one party should not conspire to threaten the other with nuclear weapons; that nuclear weapon-possessing countries should guarantee the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula; and the North and South should make joint efforts to prevent an external nuclear threat. The South side's ulterior motive lies both in following the U.S. nuclear policy of maintaining South Korea as a nuclear-forward base, the largest in the Far East, and in not implementing the Joint Declaration of Denuclearization so it can exist under the U.S. nuclear umbrella.

The Joint Declaration of Denuclearization is the national joint declaration that both sides at home and abroad solemnly promised to uphold. The Joint Declaration of Denuclearization cannot by nature be left undone or hushed up and its implementation cannot be postponed to next year, if not implemented this year.

The North and South have agreed to make joint efforts to adopt documents to verify the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula within approximately two months after the first round of the JNCC. They proclaimed the agreement's contents to the world. Therefore, the document should be adopted, though late, by the end of May.

To this end, the South side should abandon the antiquated method of being led by foreign forces. The South side should, at the earliest date, completely resolve the nuclear issue and cooperate with us based on the principle of national chuche.

7th Science-Technology Festival Opens in Pyongyang

SK1405233492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 10 May 92

[Excerpt] The seventh central science-technology festival opened at the People's Palace of Culture on 10 May. Exhibited at the festival will be the scientific and technological successes which have been rated as excellent through the science-technology festivals held at plants and enterprises across the country and provinces. The festival will enable the participants to inform each other on scientific and technological successes and experiences from last year's scientific and technological activities. It will also allow them to extensively discuss measures to thoroughly implement tasks set forth in the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year's address and in the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's letter to the participants of the national scientists' meeting.

Hanging at the site of the opening ceremony were portraits of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Also put up there were slogans reading, "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song," and "Long live the glorious Workers Party of Korea [WPK]," as well as the theme, "We wish the great leader long life and good health." Slogans reading, "Let us vigorously accelerate the chucheization, modernization, and scientization of the people's economy," and "Let us conduct a vigorous speed battle and exterminatory battle in carrying out the technological revolution and achieve more scientific and technological successes" were also hung at the site.

Present at the opening ceremony were Comrade Choe Tae-pok, alternate member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK Central Committee; Yi Cha-pang, chairman of the State Science and Technology Committee and chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Science and Technology of Korea, other functionaries of the relevant sector, and some 3,000 scientists, technicians, working people, college students, and three revolutions team members.

Chairman Yi Cha-pang made the opening address at the opening ceremony. [passage omitted]

Industrial Construction Projects Highlighted

SK1405153592 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1511 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 14 (KCNA)—More than 60 construction objects have been completed in Korea over the last four months. This fortified the assets for increasing the nation's economic potential and improving the material and cultural life of the people.

Entering this year, the Samsu and Sinhung mines have been developed, modern ore dressing plants built and commissioned at 10 odd existing mines including the August 10 and holdong mines to open a vast prospect for a decisive jump of non-ferrous metal ore production.

And the Aeguk color TV assembling factory, the pneumatic spinning shop of the Kaesong textile mill and the Kowon and Wonsan export garment factories were commissioned, many light industrial factories including footwear production bases built in Pyongyang, Sunchon, Sinuiju and other places to more satisfactorily meet the growing needs of the people for consumer goods.

The Pyongyang-Kaesong Express Highway was opened to traffic, the second-stage project of the Pyongyang Tramway, the electrification of the Kujang-Hyangjang Railway line and the expansion of wharfs of Hungnam port were completed to more successfully develop transportation and promote the people's conveniences in their life.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the DPRK Government which maintain the consistent policy of attaching primary importance to the appropriations to the national economy in the state budgetary expenditure will this year appropriate to it a colossal fund 6.5 percent larger than last year.

Investment has been boosted particularly in industrial construction and housing construction to increase the might of the chuche-based industry and more satisfactorily solve the question of food, clothing and housing for the people and, thus, capital construction involving major industrial objects is progressing in all places of the country on a gigantic scale and at a high speed.

Public Security Ministry Delegation Visits PRC

SK1405152892 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1500 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Wang Fang, member of the Chinese State Council, met in Beijing on 13 May with our country's Ministry of Public Security delegation led by Chang Song-u, director of the Political Bureau of the Ministry of Public Security; and leading members of the art troupe of the Ministry of Public Security. The delegations are visiting China.

At the meeting, Wang Fang earnestly congratulated the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song on being given the title of the DPRK generalissimo and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, on being given the title of the DPRK marshal.

Friendly talks were held at the meeting.

Tao Siju, minister of the Chinese Ministry of Public Security; (Chang Song-chin), vice minister; and Pae Yong-chae, our country's charge d'affaires to China, attended the meeting.

South Korea

JNCC Officials Discuss Mutual Inspection

SK1505044992 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0300 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] South and North officials of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission [JNCC] held their first contact in the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission conference room in Panmunjom on 15 May to negotiate the regulations for South-North mutual inspection.

Our side proposed that to effectively verify denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, it is necessary to have special inspections covering a period of only 24 hours after notification by one side. It was learned that our side is urging the North to accept this special inspection.

Our side put forth a new proposal that sites for mutual inspection be distinguished between private facilities and military facilities, but that there should be some flexibility within the limited amount of inspection that can be done every year.

In response to this, the North side is adhering to its so-called principle of simultaneously dissipating misgivings about the North's nuclear development, which means that in exchange for inspections of the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon, all U.S. forces' facilities in South Korea must be open to inspection.

Today's contact includes Pan Ki-mun, special assistant to the foreign minister, and two other officials from the South side, and People's Army Major General Pak Kwang-won and two other officials from the North side.

'No Progress' Reported

SK1505092292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0839 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—South and North Korea made no progress in their first working-level talks on an inter-Korean nuclear inspection agreement Friday. The two sides will meet a second time May 20.

North Korea insisted on simultaneous discussion on adopting a separate protocol to the inspection agreement and the agreement text, while South Korea demanded that the talks be limited to the agreement itself.

The North had apparently changed its mind since Tuesday, when it told the Joint Nuclear Control Commission (JNCC) that it was ready to discuss the text first, Pan Ki-mun, chief southern delegate to the negotiations, said after the morning session.

"The two sides basically have a different starting point on the agreement text itself," he said.

Pyongyang's draft divides the inspection regime between nuclear arms and bases, and nuclear materials and facilities.

Seoul's draft divides it between regular inspections of civilian and military installations, and challenge inspections.

"North Korea's draft is based on the assumption that there are nuclear arms and bases on the Korean peninsula. It also insists on a detailed report on where and how many U.S. nuclear weapons were deployed in South Korea, if indeed they have been pulled out," Pan said.

Seoul places primary emphasis on challenge inspection, which opens a facility unilaterally designated by the other side after 24 hours notice.

Pyongyang is opposed to this regime.

Officials here say they oppose North Korea's demand for a separate protocol because it is close to a nuclear-free zone principle, which neither South Korea nor the United States accept.

The two Koreas agreed in principle to settle the inspection regime by the end of this month. Friday's meeting was the first working-level contact on drawing up the text of the inspection guidelines.

Four Army Helicopters Stray Into DMZ

SK1505090192 Seoul YONHAP in English
0844 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP)—Four South Korean Army helicopters strayed across the southern boundary of the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] Friday morning, a United Nations Command (UNC) spokesman said.

They did not cross the Military Demarcation Line or enter North Korean airspace, the spokesman said.

"Warning shots" were fired by South and North Korean guard posts when the aircraft crossed into the DMZ, and one of the helicopters was hit by small arms fire resulting in a "precautionary landing" at a nearby South Korean airfield, he said.

The others were not damaged and returned to their home station.

"The aircraft were on a routine training mission at the time of the incident," the spokesman said.

No injuries were reported. The incident is under investigation, the spokesman said.

Police Prevent Students From Going to Panmunjom

SK1505102592 Seoul YONHAP in English
0856 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP)—The South Korean police blocked 100 collegians from South Cholla Province from going to the truce village of Panmunjom to meet a group of North Korean students Friday.

The members of Namchongnyon, the Association of Students' Councils at schools in Kwangju and South Cholla Province, had gathered in Munsan, north of Seoul, in the morning and tried to get to the truce village.

They were hoping to receive some 500 members of the North Korean Students' Committee who they had invited to come to South Korea to pay tribute to victims of Kwangju uprising on its 12th anniversary.

More than 600 police troopers were placed at all major roads leading from Pulgwang-tong in northwest Seoul to Munsan. Some 40 collegians, including Pak Yun-chong, a political science and diplomacy junior at Choson University in Kwangju, were picked up at Pulgwang subway station.

Earlier Friday, Namchongnyon leaders told a press conference at Seoul's Hanyang University that they had invited 500 North Korean collegians to Kwangju May 15-18 through an Association of Korean Youths in Berlin.

"When the North Korean students arrive, we will hold a discussion on reunification and will seek to set up sisterhood relations between colleges and universities on either side. We have decided to hold a seminar and sports event in commemoration of the May 18 uprising," a representative said.

He said his association would make an all-out effort to achieve national reunification in 1995.

College Heads Urge Against Display of North Flag

SK1505095792 Seoul YONHAP in English
0814 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP)—The presidents of 18 universities called upon students Friday not to use the North Korean flag during campus rallies.

"Use of the North Korean flag cannot earn any sympathy from the majority of the people, nor can it be helpful in advancing the time of unification," they said in a statement.

Among the 18, all members of the Korean University Education Council, were the presidents of Korea University, Ewha Women's University and Pusan National University. They issued their statement after a meeting at the 63 building.

It said they were shocked to see their campuses disrupted by violence due to radical students just as calm had finally set in and warned that heavy disciplinary measures awaited students who violated school regulations or the law of the land.

The meeting came on heels of the appearance of North Korean flags at campus rallies in Kwangju, Pusan and Seoul, leading to violent clashes between students and riot police trying to seize the flags.

North Korea is an enemy state according to South Korean law, and the use of its flag is illegal.

South's Exclusion From Tumen Project Examined

SK1505032892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0214 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP)—Great sums of Japanese capital may flow into the Tumen River project as North Korea seeks to exclude South Korea, and such a close tie-up between Japan and North Korea may dilute the positive effects of inter-Korean economic cooperation on overall relations between the two Koreas, a private research institute said Friday.

In a report on the Tumen River special economic zone envisioned by North Korea, Samsung Economic Research Institute said that South Korea should not depend on the United Nations Development Program in its access to the Tumen River project but should positively take part in the project on its own, while closely watching the Japanese move.

The report said North Korea was apparently excluding South Korea from foreign capital suppliers, as inter-Korean economic cooperation usually took time, being linked with reunification talks on various levels.

If South Korean investment in the special zone is delayed, it would adversely affect other sectors and South Korean firms would again suffer disadvantages in their competition with Japanese firms, the report said.

It said South Korean firms should not engage in heated competition among themselves but should build a mutually-complementary cooperative structure to promote access to North Korea, which has yet to become a valuable market.

The report advised South Korean firms to pay a broad attention to North Korea's development of second and third free economic zones and not to focus too much on the Najin-Sonbong-Chongjin free trade zone.

It recommended the government propose and publicize what South Korean firms can do if special economic zones were developed in the Nampo, Shinuiju, and Wonsan areas.

Predicting that Niigata of Japan would become a hub of economic interaction in Northeast Asia as the Tumen River basin was developed, the report called on South Korean firms to build a basis for information gathering there.

It said the government should form working-level teams for inter-Korean economic cooperation with people from the industrial circles.

Chong Chu-yong Wins UNP Presidential Nomination

SK1505102392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0242 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP)—The Unification National Party (UNP) nominated Chong Chu-yong as its presidential candidate at a national convention Friday.

A standing vote by 1,738 delegates counted 1,727 for, seven against and 4 abstainers at the convention participated by more than 3,000 people.

Chong, founder of the party early this year, was the sole contender for the nomination.

The convention approved a motion doubling the leadership to 60 posts and installing three vice secretaries-general to prepare for the presidential election in December.

"Our party came about because we could not sit idly by and watch the economy wander without any sense of direction for more than 10 years from outdated politics, and because we realized an advanced economy and national reunification would not come about if regressive politics did not change," Chong said in an acceptance speech.

The UNP, formed in January, is the first of the three major political parties to hold a presidential nominating convention. The ruling Democratic Liberal Party convention is May 19.

President No Tae-u's five-year term ends in February next year, and he is ineligible for re-election.

The UNP issued a statement pledging to "revive the national economy and instill honesty in this society" with Chong as the party leader.

It adopted a five-point resolution, including the vow to win the presidential election, and pledged a clean election campaign and economic recovery.

With the convention, the UNP begins a full-fledged restructuring of its district chapters, creating new ones while replacing chiefs in others, until end of next month.

It will form a task-force mid-June to lay out the campaign strategy.

YONHAP Profiles Candidate

SK1505103892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0253 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—Chong Chu-yong has spent one lifetime conquering the business world as head of the Hyundai Business Group. Now, at age 76, he hopes to conquer the political world by becoming president.

The Unification National Party (UNP), which Chong founded four months ago, nominated him as its presidential candidate on Friday in a ceremonial step that makes official Chong's declared intent to run for the country's top position.

Political veterans did not take Chong too seriously when he announced Jan. 10 that he was going to set up his own party, but they quickly changed their minds when the UNP won 31 national assembly seats in the general elections just two months later.

The performance gives UNP a voice in the National Assembly, where the ruling Democratic Liberal Party just barely made a majority.

Chong, a self-made man, built Hyundai from nothing to one of the nation's largest conglomerates with his bare hands. His second test is whether he can do the same with his UNP.

Chong was born Nov. 25, 1915, in Tongchon County, Kangwon Province, as the oldest of seven children—six boys and one girl . His birthplace is now in North Korea.

His grandfather taught him at home for three years from when Chong was five years old until he began attending school. His early childhood was not easy, relatives say. He had to work on his father's farm from an early age to help support his family.

Chong wanted to study more and become a schoolteacher, but as soon as he graduated from elementary school at age 14, he had to abandon this ambition and look after the family farm.

The farm couldn't keep him at home long. He tried to run away when he was 15, but was brought back. He tried again, twice, but was returned every time.

He ran away again when he was 19, this time for good, and found a job at Inchon, a port west of Seoul, doing all sorts of physical labor.

A rice storeowner gave him his first break. The man had Chong working for him for three years as a delivery boy, but then took such a liking to the young man that he gave the store to him.

Chong renamed the rice store "Kyongil."

He earned enough money to open an automobile repair company in Seoul in 1946, a year after Korea was freed from 35 years of Japanese rule. In 1950, he formed Hyundai Engineering and Construction Co. his brother In-yong provided critical support, using his training as an English translator to virtually monopolize construction projects for the 8th U.S. Army base.

Hyundai grew and grew, taking on major reconstruction projects for the Han River and Inchon port. Under President Pak Chong-hui, Hyundai was put in charge of building two-fifths of the Seoul-Pusan highway. This placed hyundai engineering and construction at the top of the industry.

And now, Chong has already made controversial campaign pledges, promising to slash housing prices in half and disband all conglomerates to change the country's industrial structure. Economic recovery is a mainstay of his public speeches.

Chong has earned his stars in the business world, and now asks the public to judge his political skills.

No Promises Support for Small Industrial Firms

SK1505013692 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 May 92 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u pledged yesterday that the government would increase support of small- and medium-sized businesses to help strengthen their competitive power in international markets.

The President promised "continuous support" for small industrial firms, expressing deep regret over the latest increase in the number of companies going bankrupt due to a shortage of funds and manpower.

In a speech at a rally of small- and medium-sized business owners at Seoul's Sejong Cultural Center, No said that the government would expand various funds to aid small businesses in order to help ease the fund shortage.

He also said that the government would increase its capital contributions to credit-guarantee institutions for small- and medium-sized businesses.

No further promised that the government would "reform the tax system to reduce tax burdens on small firms for the next two-three years."

The rally was organized on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Korean Federation of Small- and Medium-sized Business Cooperatives.

The President told the rally participants that the government would cut various administrative red tape on the founding or management of small enterprises.

However, the Chief Executive stressed that "the time has passed when small businesses are dependent upon the protection and support of the government."

"Owners of the small firms are required to take the lead in developing new technology and improving productivity," he said.

During the rally, the President gave awards to 51 people for their contributions to the development of small- and medium-sized businesses.

Ministers Discuss Scientific R&D Budget Increase

SK1505014892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 15 May 92 p 3

[Text] To tide over global economic and trade competition, the government and the private sector will have to invest a total of 7.2 trillion won, 2.8 percent of GNP, in scientific and technological research and development next year, Science-Technology Minister Kim Chin-hyon said in a ministerial meeting yesterday.

In the eight integrated science and technology consultative meeting attended by Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and 14 government ministers at the premier's office, Kim reported that the government should increase its science and technology budget to 1.7 trillion won next year from 1.4 trillion won in 1992.

Kim briefed the ministers that the government will push ahead with 20 high-tech projects including integrated services digital networks (ISDN), high-definition TV (HDTV) and ULSI chip development.

To carry out the projects effectively, government-invested telecommunications and electronic business corporations will invest 4 percent of their annual turnovers in research and development, Kim said.

Kim said the government will seek to utilize advanced technologies of China, Russia and other East European countries in implementation of the high-tech projects.

The government will strengthen scientific and technological information gathering activities by sending more science attaches to and utilizing trade offices in advanced countries, Kim said.

To cope with Uruguay Round, the government will exert every effort to develop new agricultural technologies utilizing advanced bio-engineering technologies.

He also stressed the development of alternative energy and environmental technologies to reduce environmental pollution.

To promote the people's welfare, Kim said, the government will actively develop new technologies in the fields of medicine, transportation, construction, telecommunications, ocean research and resource exploration.

Kim estimated that the government and private sectors need a total of 473,000 R&D personal to carry out the projects in 1993.

He said the government will invite scientists from overseas and conduct joint research with foreign institutes to cope with the research manpower shortage.

Kim said the government will send more scientists and engineers to advanced countries for trading next year.

Pointing out that scientific and technological education in universities is in a crisis, Minister Kim pledged the government will increase financial support and help them build more research facilities.

The government will set up a state-managed found for scientific and technological promotion, Kim said.

To help venture businesses, the minister said, the government will set up a banking institution in charge of providing financial support to fledgling companies.

Burma

Camps Ready To Receive Returnees From Bangladesh

BK1505072892 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 0630 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] It has been learned that under the agreement reached between the leaders of Burma and Bangladesh, arrangements are being made to systematically screen and accept those who had fled to Bangladesh from Burma. Arrangements at Taungpyo Letwe, Ngakhuya, Pinbyu, Kanyinchaung, and Magyichaung reception camps in Maungdaw township are now complete and the camps are ready to receive the returnees from 15 May.

Personnel from the Department of Immigration and Manpower and authorities concerned have made necessary arrangements for smooth operation.

Bangladesh Urged Not To Expel Rohingya Refugees

BK1505024392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 May 92 p 6

[Excerpt] Burma's parallel pro-democracy government yesterday appealed to the Bangladesh Government not to force the Arakanese Muslim refugees in Bangladesh to return to Burma.

In a statement issued yesterday, Information & Culture Minister U Hla Pe of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma said they fear that the refugees may be arrested, tortured, or killed by the Burmese military regime upon their return.

In the letter he said the Muslim refugees do not want to return to Burma without sufficient safety guarantees.

Some of the refugees are demonstrating against repatriation, said U Hla Pe.

"If the military regime was not oppressing the Arakanese Muslims, then they would not have run away after the agreement between Bangladesh and Burma," he said.

He charged that the agreement was just a deceptive political ploy to decrease international pressure.

"Intentionally, they did not give any guarantees for the safety of refugees who return to Burma," he said.

U Hla Pe requested that the UN secretary-general and the UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] demand that the Rangoon junta give sufficient safety guarantees and measures for the refugees.

He also stressed the need for the UNHCR to set up and operate an observer team in the Arakan State to observe the condition of the refugees who return.

In the light of the approaching monsoon season, the minister appealed to the Bangladesh Government, the UNHCR, and all concerned communities to help and save the lives of refugees. [passage omitted]

Another 14 Prisoners Released From Various Jails

BK1305145192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] U Sama Kyaw Phanaw, former chairman of Kachin State National Democratic Party, against whom action was taken under existing laws in February 1991 and who was serving his sentence at Mandalay jail; U Oo Byit Tu, former central executive committee member Kachin State National Congress for Democracy, against whom action was taken under existing laws in January 1991 and who was serving his sentence at Myitkyina jail; U Zaw Lin and U Maung Maung, former central executive committee members of the Union Nationals Democracy Party, against whom action was taken under existing laws in May 1991 and who were serving sentences at Mergui jails; U Taung Gyi, former organizer for Kayah State of the National League for Democracy [NLD] Party, and U Saw Taik Thit, former chairman of Pasawng Township NLD, against whom action was taken under existing laws in February 1992 and who were serving sentences at Myingyan jail; U Than Tun, former NLD member, against whom action was taken under existing laws in January 1992 and who was serving his sentence at Shwebo jail, were released today in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC].

Similarly, seven young women, against whom action was taken under existing laws in May 1991 and who were serving sentences were also released from the Insein Central Jail today in accordance with SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92.

Responsible officials from the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence went to the Insein Central Jail this afternoon and explained SLORC's Declaration No. 11/92 issued on 24 April, and read out the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs on the reduction of jail terms to those who would be released. They were then allowed to meet their family members and were released.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Rejects Call for Forming Kingdom

BK1405161092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 14 May 92

[Message by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk to his monarchist supporters from Phnom Penh on 14 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear children and compatriots: Many of you among the monarchists have requested that your Prince Father Norodom Sihanouk bring back to Cambodia the monarchy, the constitutional monarchic regime under parliamentary democracy in the manner of the Kingdom of Great Britain, Belgium, Japan, Thailand, and so on, on the grounds of the superior interests and stability of Cambodia and the Cambodian nation.

Concerning this matter, I, your Prince Father, would like to give you the following personal views:

At present, peace in our country is far from being consolidated. Cambodian factions continue to look at each other as enemies. On top of that, the Cambodian Supreme National Council and we still have many serious problems to solve. If we add to all of that the issue of whether to have a republic or kingdom, we will surely further complicate the current situation of our beloved Cambodia.

In my opinion, the present solution to which we have all agreed is supposed to again make Cambodia an independent and neutral state, without specifying whether it is a kingdom or a republic. That is the best solution for all of us. Simply calling our state Cambodia, not the Republic or Kingdom of Cambodia, should be the best solution for salvaging and consolidating the national unity and social peace of our motherland.

I would like to thank all children and compatriots for being understanding toward me in the spirit of patriotism. Please accept my highest regards and greatest affections.

Khieu Samphan Note Opposes Aid to Phnom Penh

BK1505054192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Khieu Samphan, head of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC], on 13 May wrote to His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman, describing consequences of the appeal planned by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] for international aid for the Phnom Penh regime.

The message reads: I am honored to express deepest thanks to Your Highness for having provided an answer to my message dated 7 May 1992 concerning an announcement prepared by the SNC on the same day on international aid for Cambodia. This (?gesture) indicates that Your Highness was pleased to pay attention to my message. Anyway, would you please allow me to inform Your Highness that the technical committee, which is a subsidiary organ of the SNC, did not hold its weekly meeting on 12 May 1992 as planned to further discuss the international aid. This was because the Phnom Penh faction's representatives did not attend. The absence was not announced nor was a reason for it given by the faction beforehand. And as the morning session scheduled for 1000 on that day was postponed, Your Highness decided to invite the Phnom Penh regime's representatives to meet again at 1400. But again they neither turned up nor provided notification or reason for their absence.

I think the Phnom Penh faction's arrogance should not be treated lightly. Was this not due to the Phnom Penh faction's haughtiness on account of the planned call for international economic and financial aid to be given to it? Was it not haughty because of the practice that I mentioned to Your Highness in the aforementioned message? If this is so, doesn't it constitute an encouragement for the Vietnamese to continue to conceal their invading forces in Cambodia in violation of the Paris accord? I think that those questions are terribly serious.

After raising the questions, H.E. Khieu Samphan clearly pointed out: The PDK does not object to aid for restoring roads, bridges, dams, railroads, ports, and irrigation construction, and assistance in repatriating Cambodian refugees and providing shelter to them, as well as educational and technical assistance, providing such aid is correctly verified and controlled by the UNTAC and SNC. As for aid for Cambodia's budget and foreign trade, it should be set aside temporarily until the SNC has sufficient rights, authority, and means to perform its function as the unique legitimate state body and source of authority in Cambodia.

On chapters 37 and 146 of the draft document on aid for Cambodia's budget and foreign trade, H.E. Khieu Samphan stressed that Cambodia's budget and foreign trade cannot be discussed unless the SNC is endowed with sufficient rights, authority, and means to organize and administer Cambodia's state affairs.

H.E. Khieu Samphan told the prince: I cannot accept the reasoning that if the UNTAC and SNC do not have their own administrative mechanisms, they should make use of the Phnom Penh faction's administrative apparatus and that the Phnom Penh regime should be assisted. This is contrary to the Paris accord and will affect the objectives of the accord, which aimed at restoring independence and sovereignty to Cambodia. This kind of assistance helps the Vietnamese further their occupation of Cambodia in various ways. As such, the Cambodian people will in no way agree, and then peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia will never be achieved.

In conclusion, H.E. Khieu Samphan gave the following summary of his statement:

1. Cambodia urgently needs international aid to restore its economy;

2. However, the urgent need for aid does not mean that appeals should be launched for assistance to the Phnom Penh faction. This would constitute a serious breach of the Paris accord; and

3. Because Cambodia needs international aid, it is necessary to implement without delay the clause of the Paris accord on Cambodia stipulating that the SNC is the unique source of authority and the legitimate state organ in Cambodia.

H.E. Khieu Samphan wrote another message with similar content to H.E. Behrooz Sadry, deputy head of the UNTAC. And copies of the message were also forwarded to the UN secretary general, the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Slogans of Phase II Cease-Fire Implementation

BK1505035092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 14 May 92

["Second New Slogans"]

[Text] What is the real significance of the implementation of the second-phase cease-fire in Cambodia, both in military and civilian aspects? The real significance is as follows:

Military aspect:

1. Observers and peacekeeping forces of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the four Cambodian parties should be completely deployed to verify the presence of the Youn [Vietnamese] invading forces at O Yada, O Sleng, Dak Dam, Snuol, Krek, Bavet, Rumduol, K'am Samnar, Phnum Den, and Lok along the Cambodian-Vietnamese border and at other points in the central region of Cambodia, such as Stung Treng, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Kampot, and Phlov Bambek Sre Ambel. This is the first clause that should be applied before the others as clearly stipulated in the military aspect of the Paris accord; and

2. Seventy percent of the four Cambodian parties' armies should be regrouped and confined in cantonments, then verified and demobilized by the UNTAC and the four Cambodian parties. This second clause should be applied after but never before the first clause. The military aspect of the Paris accord has explicitly specified this.

Note: Some people have objected to the Paris 23 October 1991 accord with the intent of modifying and destroying it. They have not maintained their correct, just, and neutral roles and wanted to cast aside the Youn issue, to conceal the Youn, and to avoid the verification of the Youn presence. They have instead painstakingly repeated the issue of verifying Cambodians, specifically Democratic Kampuchea. If they are carrying out only the foul play, war can never end, and the Cambodian nation and people can never agree.

Civilian aspect:

Vital significance of the civilian aspect is as follows:

1. The Supreme National Council [SNC] is the unique legitimate body and source of authority in Cambodia. There is no other authority, including the authority of the resistance forces and the authority of the Phnom Penh side in the country. And to allow the second phase of cease-fire to proceed, the SNC should have a well-defined role, rights, and authority in Cambodia. If the SNC has no role, rights, and authority, the phase two cease-fire can never be achieved; and

2. The UNTAC and SNC jointly control and administer the five important ministries of Cambodia, such as the Ministries of Defense, Interior and National Security, Foreign Affairs, Finance, and Information. This means that the UNTAC and SNC should jointly run those ministries across the country—it is neither the UNTAC nor the SNC alone and it is absolutely not the state authority shored up by the Youn, anyway. As for the existing old or new personnel, they are only the technical machine at offices that should come under the control and administration of the SNC and UNTAC. It is not appropriate to deceivingly claim that the Youn's regime in Phnom Penh should be kept.

The second phase of the cease-fire can only proceed if the two important civilian aspects are achieved. However, should the Yuon's aggressor and facist regime in Phnom Penh—which has caused disaster to the Cambodian nation and people for 14 years—be preserved, this will be in complete contradiction to the Paris accord, morals, the UN Charter, and the opinion of the world and Cambodian people. And therefore, the Cambodian nation and people can never agree.

Troops Report to Units; UN Plans Job Training

BK1505034592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0545 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 14 (AFP)—Phnom Penh has ordered its troops to report to their units, weapons in hand, by Friday to register for UN-supervised demobilization.

"All soldiers and officers who are on leave or convalescing at home must return urgently to their units, by May 15, 1992, bringing their weapons and ammunition," said the Defense Ministry announcement broadcast repeatedly since Tuesday on state radio.

The announcement said the move was necessary to compile a control list for the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

UNTAC has asked all four Cambodian factions to submit such lists by June 13, when UNTAC will start the month-long process of disarming the rival armies.

Under the October Paris peace accords, 70 percent of each army will be demobilized and the remaining 30 percent will be placed in UN-supervised cantonments.

If a soldier fails to report, the announcement said, "the General Staff will in no way be responsible for what could happen."

UNTAC chief Yasushi Akashi said last week that the four armies total about 200,000 men.

He did not disclose the breakdown, but one UN source said Phnom Penh's forces number an estimated 120,000.

In a related development, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said it was drafting a 22.3 million dollar program to help demobilized soldiers earn a living.

"They are as critical to the peace process as any other group, and perhaps the factor that could make or break it," UNDP program officer Valerie Cliff said of the soldiers.

The fear is widespread in Cambodia that thousands of demobilized soldiers, many of whom have no skills other than handling weapons after 13 years of war, could turn to banditry once discharged en masse onto Cambodia's underdeveloped economy.

The UNDP project calls for 6.5 million dollars to set up small-enterprise development centers, which would provide expertise and credit to start up small businesses before hopefully becoming the basis of a rural credit system, Cliff said.

Another four million dollars would be used for vocational training centers. Both categories fall under UNTAC's budget, which is being debated at the United Nations in New York.

The third and largest section, which will be funded by donors, is an 11.8 million dollar public works program, using labor-intensive methods. The program would provide temporary employment for 16,000 unskilled demobilized soldiers while restoring Cambodia's devastated roads, bridges, and dikes.

The UNDP project, which is based on a survey of soldiers carried out in January and February by the International Labor Organization, assumes that more than half of demobilized soldiers will be able to return to farming.

Shortage of Land Delays Repatriation Program

BK1505025792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 92 p 4

[Excerpt] The UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees], worried that its repatriation programme for some 360,000 Cambodian refugees housed in Thai camps is falling behind schedule, will adopt new strategies to ensure that they will [be] back home in time for the UN supervised general election.

The UNHCR and Thai authorities including the National Security Council and the Foreign Ministry met recently in Bangkok to explore how the UNHCR-sponsored repatriation programme for the refugees, who have been residing here for decades, could be accelerated.

Lt Gen Sanan Khachonklam, chief of Cambodian Repatriation Coordination Centre (CRCC), said the number of people repatriated to Cambodia in March was only 5,705, well below the set figure of 10,000.

The delay was believed to have been caused by the shortage of arable land and unexpected logistical problems inside Cambodia.

To get around this problem the joint meeting decided that priority of repatriation would be given those who have relatives in their chosen destinations and did not want arable land.

Under current practice, returnees able to identify their destination in their war-torn country will be allocated about 12 rai of land and construction materials for their house.

The shortage of farmland has delayed the programme, Sanan said, adding that the Thai agencies therefore are reluctant to repatriate the refugees. The Cambodians should be sent back on condition that the necessary facilities were ready for them, he said.

Sanan said to speed up the number of returnees, the UNHCR will propose that priority should be given to those who had relatives at their destinations and did not want arable land.

The returnees would be given relief items, food sufficient for 12 months, and about US$50 for each adult and US$25 for children.

The UNHCR will soon announce the new offer for the 364,000 or so Cambodians in Thai refugee camps along the border.

Sanan said he believed about 90 percent of the Cambodians would be satisfied with the new conditions since most of them wanted to return home at the earliest opportunity.

The UNHCR had earlier surveyed this offer among the Cambodians and found that about 8,700 people who identified their destinations at Battambang were willing to return home to live with their relatives, even if arable land was not provided.

Sanan added that if the implementation of the new strategies went smoothly, 15,000 more refugees might be repatriated by the end of this month.

Those who needed only land for residence would be given construction materials and food adequate for 12 months.

With this plan, the officials concerned were confident that all displaced Cambodians would be back home by the end of this year.

The repatriation programme was part of the peace accords signed in Paris last year, to enable the returnees to vote in the UN- supervised general election in June next year.

Though the Thai Engineering Corps Unit 2 had completed clearing mines along Highway route 5 from Poipet to Sisophon, some repatriation routes were still strewn with mines planted during the civil war.

Sanan said that the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which would soon fully deploy their force in the war-torn country, would help intensify mine clearing and stop the sporadic fighting there. [passage omitted]

SRV Sends Additional Troops to Kompong Thom

BK1305011092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 12 May 92

[Text] According to informed sources in Kompong Thom Province, the Vietnamese aggressors on 5 May sent six truckloads of troops from the 2d Military Region in Kompong Cham Province to reinforce their 179th Division in hiding in an area north of Sankor. This is the root cause of the continued war waged by the Vietnamese aggressors in Kompong Thom Province.

In light of the cease-fire effective from 1 April 1992 in Kompong Thom Province, the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] and the four-party Cambodian Mixed Military Working Group have decided that all parties' troops that are not permanently stationed in Kompong Thom Province must withdraw from the province. Especially the Vietnamese invaders and Phnom Penh's 179th and 7th divisions and units from the 4th Military Region in Siem Reap Province and 2d Military Region in Kompong Cham Province must withdraw from Kompong Thom.

However, the Vietnamese aggressors have not withdrawn those forces from Kompong Thom Province. They have instead forced the people to carry arms, then trucked them away from the province for the purpose of fooling the general public. In addition, the Vietnamese aggressors have also systematically shipped reinforcements to their troops in Kompong Thom. Is this not a truce violation in Kompong Thom Province and a violation and sabotage of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord?

The people hold that it is not fair to watch out for and accuse only the resistance forces, who are the victims. But attention should be paid to the aggressors, who are the great warmongers. If an attempt is made only to catch smoke but not put out the fire, the flame of war will unquestionably continue to burn endlessly.

SRV Plane Brings Materiel to Kompong Thom

BK1205032292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 11 May 92

[Text] On 7 May an aircraft of the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side brought all types of ammunition, including B-40 rockets, mortar shells, and AK ammunition to Kompong Thom Province for the use of their forces to continue attacking and killing people.

This is the umpteenth time the Vietnamese aggressors have brought ammunition and all kinds of war materiel by truck and aircraft to Kompong Thom. This has greatly angered the people in Kompong Thom Province who have asked the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Cambodian Supreme National Council to adhere to their role and rights as authorities during the transitional period and take measures to absolutely prevent activities violating the Paris agreement by the Vietnamese aggressors and the Phnom Penh side.

The people say that if the Vietnamese aggressors are allowed to continue bringing in ammunition and war materiel, the war in Kompong Thom Province will certainly not end. The people in every village, commune, and district in Kompong Thom Province will not remain idle to be massacred at will by the Vietnamese aggressors.

Government Asks for Greater Thai Role in Tourism

BK1205094992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 12 May 92 p B14

[By Duangphon Prinyanut]

[Text] The Cambodian Government has asked Thai investors to enhnace their role in the development of Cambodia's tourism industry and assist in upgrading hotel accommodation and facilities to satisfy demand from overseas travelers.

The investors have recently increased the number of flights from Bangkok to Phnom Penh to 31 a week. The three airlines serving the sector are Bangkok Airways (operating under air agreement traffic license of Thailand), SK Air, and Cambodia International Airlines (CIAS) (operating under Cambodian license).

Tie Banh, deputy prime minister and defence minister, made the call to Thai investors at the inauguration of Cambodia International Airlines, the Cambodian national flag carrier, a joint venture between Fuldaa Corporation of Thailand and the Cambodian government.

Tie Banh said the roles of the government and overseas private sector in the economic development of Cambodia are clearly defined and conflict free.

Among the investing countries are Australia, which is concentrating on the telephone and telecommunications system, and Japan, which is developing basic infrastructure such as water supply and electricity distribution system.

The Taiwanese private sector has proposed to invest in the agro-industrial sector in logging, corn and guava plantation while Malaysia will help develop the agricultural sector. Singapore focuses on trading.

Thailand is aiding the development of tourism, starting with the construction of airport facilities by Fuldaa Corporation, operation of airline and adding to hotel accommodation.

Thai investors are being encouraged by the Cambodian Government as they help speed up the process of economic recovery of the country, Tie Banh said.

Tie Banh said the government wants Thai investors to develop accommodation and facilities for the tourism industry in whose development Thai investors will receive first priority.

The priority location will be Phnom Penh rather than cities like Siam Riep eyed by most investors because of Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom.

But acquiring land in Phnom Penh is still a major problem and there is competition from speculators and minor investors in small housing apartments. Tie Banh said the government will soon introduce a policy to resolve the issue to attract major investment projects.

Cham Prasit, deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, has estimated that some 4,000 hotel rooms are required at present in Phnom Penh.

Currently, there are about 1,000 standard rooms to accommodate international tourists, apart from apartments and houses offered by local people on individual basis.

Tie Banh urged that investment projects should be speeded up for completion before the country's election scheduled next year.

Any government coming to power will honor agreements made by the present one, he added.

Projects agreed on will need to start preparation work in three to six months. Failure to do so will call for a cancellation of contract, he said.

Tie Banh said the government has completed a policy for foreign investment under which investors are required to form joint ventures with local people in exchange for the right to own land.

There are three major Thai investor groups taking their investment projects in Cambodia seriously as a means to establish a base in the country.

Among them are Wanachai Group of Somphon Sahawat, which has established a logging business in the country. The troup is also developing a huge resort complex in Ko Kong, adjacent to Trat province of Thailand. The project will also host a casino.

Sompon has a share in SK Air, air service company renting the plane from Kampuchea Air, and Floating Hotel, a boat owned by Olan Atsawarithikun of Bang Pakong Group and being transformed into a 100-room hotel in Phnom Penh.

The Ratchathani Group of Bun Wanasin is building a hotel project called Ratchathani Cambodia. The hotel, at an investment of Bt375 million (US$15 million), will be operated by Choice International management chain as a Quality Inn class or four-star resort.

The group also plans to renovate a 80-room school to accommodate staff of the United Nations and Japanese development projects. Total investment this year is expected to be Bt600 million.

Ratchathani Group was one of five licensees for air service between Phnom Penh and Bangkok under Tropical Sea Air. But the operation is pending due to high competition.

Bun said the group will diversify into construction, mining and industrial businesses in Cambodia. It will soon establish a construction company, a weaving mill and shoe factories to use the advantage of low labor cost and produce for export to the United States.

The Fuldaa Group established a weaving mill in Cambodia before being awarded licence to construct and operate the Pochentong Airport. The group recently started a new joint venture to run the national flag carrier.

Udom Tantiprasongchai, managing director of the group, said with Bt500 million investment in a passenger terminal and equipment for air traffic control, the group can hope for good prospects in the long term.

The group plans to rent space for banking, a shopping complex, business centre apart from a duty free shop run under TAT [Tourist Authority of Thailand] Duty Free Shop by Downtown Duty Free Co in Thailand.

Olan of Bangpakong Group will expand hotel business to add another boat to provide more rooms and entertainment facilities including casino and discotheque.

Laos

Khamtai Siphadon Receives Thai Supreme Commander

BK1405134592 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] This morning, General Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received the high- level military delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander, Air Force commander in chief, and chairman of the Thai-Lao General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee. The Thai military delegation also included ACM Anan Kalintha, minister of the interior; Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Army commander in chief; Admiral Wichet Karunyawanit, Navy commander in chief; and a number of high-ranking military officers of Thailand.

Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon hailed and welcomed the visit to Laos by the Thai military delegation, aimed at further strengthening the relations of friendship and good brotherliness, cooperation in national development, and the safeguarding of internal peace and order in the two countries. The LPDR prime minister expressed the hope that the relations of brotherliness and neighborliness and cooperation in various fields between the two countries would be further strengthened.

ACM Kaset Rotchananin expressed his delight and thanks to the Lao side for according his delegation a warm welcome. He assessed that the relations and cooperation between the two countries have developed for the better. The situation along the Lao-Thai border remains normal. Even though a group of bad and outlawed elements have created problems along the border, the two sides pledged to closely cooperate with each other so as to further strengthen the relations and cooperation between the two countries.

During the call, ACM Kaset Rotchananin also conveyed greetings and best wishes from Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, prime minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, to His Excellency Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon.

Leaders, Thai Commander Discuss Border Problems

BK1505054392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] At noon yesterday in Vientiane, Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a courtesy call from the high-level military delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand comprising Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander, Air Force commander in chief, and chairman of the Thai-Lao General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee; ACM Anan Kalintha, minister of the interior; Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Army commander in chief; Admiral Phichet Karunyawanit, Navy commander in chief; and a number of high-ranking military officers of the Kingdom of Thailand.

On the morning of the same day, Gen. Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the LPDR, received the aforementioned Thai high-level military delegation led by ACM Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander, Air Force commander in chief, and chairman of the Thai- Lao General Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee.

On this occasion, the Lao high-level military delegation led by Lieutenant General [Lt. Gen.] Choummali Saignason, minister of national defense and chairman of the Lao-Thai Border Peacekeeping Cooperation Committee, and the high-level military delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand led by ACM Kaset Rotchananin held an official meeting.

Lt. Gen. Choummali said there is a need for the armed forces of the two countries to be assigned by their governments to carry out duties to maintain peace and order along the common border. He said that since the time the two sides have met and exchanged visits, both at the central and local administrative levels, in order to provide conveniences for both sides and promote mutual understanding, the border peacekeeping and various activities have improved very satisfactorily and admirably. The development has resulted from the efforts of both sides. The head of the Lao side expressed confidence that, from now on, under ACM Kaset's leadership of the Thai military, problems concerning border peacekeeping cooperation and problems causing difficulties will be further improved and rectified on the basis of neighborliness and brotherliness between the two countries. He said that obstacles to their brotherliness will be removed. In particular, problems that cause unrest in certain border areas must also be jointly resolved. The assigning of the armed forces of the two countries to this particular task is a direct and correct move.

During the meeting, ACM Kaset remarked that, according to history, the two countries of Thailand and Laos have been brotherly countries, using similar languages and having similar cultures and traditions. He expressed his confidence and assured the Lao side that the armed forces of Thailand and Laos will further enjoy brotherly relations without distrust, jointly resolve problems causing misunderstanding, and further enhance the strengthening of good and friendly relations and bilateral cooperation.

After spending six hours on the visit to Laos, ACM Kaset led the Thai delegation to return home safely on the afternoon of the same day.

The high-level military delegation from Thailand arrived in Vientiane yesterday morning for its working visit to Laos.

Vietnamese Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

BK1405140992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] This morning, the delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] led by Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and head of the CPV Central Committee Economic Board, left for home after paying a one-week visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR].

Seeing the delegation off at Wattai Airport were Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Political Bureau member of the party Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of economy, planning, and finance; and a number of high-ranking cadres of the Lao side. (?Nguyen Van Khanh), counsellor of the SRV Embassy in Laos, was also at the airport to build farewell to the CPV delegation.

During its working visit here, the CPV delegation paid courtesy calls on Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC]; and on Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the LPDR at the Office of the LPRP Central Committee. It also held meetings and exchanged experiences on economic development in the new period with the leaders of the Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Finance; the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations; the Ministry of Trade and Tourism; the State Bank; and the lord mayor of Vientiane municipality. The delegation also visited Savannakhet Province.

In addition to serving to further strengthen the relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the two parties, states, and peoples of Laos and Vietnam, the visit to Laos by the CPV delegation also enabled the two sides to exchange actual experiences in economic development in the new period between the two countries.

Army Trade Union Convenes Third Congress

BK1105134192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 11 May 92

[Excerpts] As reported earlier, the third armywide trade union congress was officially opened on 7 May.

On the first day of the congress, the delegates heard a report on work in consolidating and building the army trade union and expanding its work in the past five years. The achievements and victories won by grass-roots trade union members were presented and weak points and remaining shortcomings pointed out. Then, Comrade Lieutenant General Osakan Thammatheva, member of the party Central Committee, deputy minister of national defense, and director of the Army General Political Department, addressed the congress. In his address, the general pointed out many issues regarding the status and role of the army trade union in acting as the management of factories and being a key unit in carrying out production and looking after the welfare of workers. In the immediate future, he called for the consolidation and strengthening of the trade union to become a firm and strong organization in all fields. He noted that attention must be paid to educating and training workers and to encouraging them to maintain a sense of patriotism and affection toward the new regime and a sense of being the masters of factories and the country and to fully exercise the right to mastership in carrying production and goods distribution. The comrade stressed that at present, we must endeavor to transform the trade union into an institution for socioeconomic development and production management and for building new men with lofty ideals.

On the same afternoon, Comrade Bounthan Souvannasouk, member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions, gave a lecture at the congress, pointing out an immediate need for fulfilling the party's plans and policies in the new period. He said trade union organizations must be consolidated and strengthened in all fields and must further enhance their role and obligations, for example by stepping up ideological and political training work, organizing labor emulation campaigns, and paying attention to safeguarding the legitimate rights and social welfare privileges of workers. [passage omitted]

On the second day of its session, the congress voted to select five delegates to attend the third nationwide trade union congress which will be convened in the near future. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Latest Quick Count Shows Ramos Leading Santiago

HK1505100792 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0841 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Here is an update on the presidential race issued by the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] at 1543 today: Ramos has 620,444 votes while Santiago has 592,438. Ramos is leading Santiago by 28,006 votes. Cojuangco has 411,465; Ramon Mitra Jr., 307,309; Salonga, 291,835; Imelda Marcos, 261,681; Salvador Laurel, 47,071. This is the latest update issued by the MCQC and for the first time, Fidel Ramos has taken the lead from Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Conflicting Tallies Cause Confusion

HK1405131292 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Manila, May 14 (AFP)—Counting in the Philippines presidential election broke down into confusion Thursday [14 May] with different unofficial tallies giving the lead to either former defense chief Fidel Ramos or ex-judge Miriam Santiago.

A count by the Roman Catholic Church-backed ZNN broadcast network, based on a fifth of the estimated 27 million votes, had Ramos grabbing 22.9 percent of the vote to Santiago's 22.2 percent.

But the government-sanctioned Media Citizens Quick Count (MCQC), working with only eight percent of the total vote, showed Santiago widening her early lead over Ramos from less than one percent to 3.6 percent.

The MCQC tally gave the anti-graft crusader 26.9 percent to 23.3 for Ramos, who ran with the backing of President Corazon Aquino and her outgoing administration.

Tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco, a former crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, was a third in both counts with about 15-17 percent, trailed by four other candidates.

The ZNN count was halted at noon Thursday on government orders aimed at ending the confusion generated by the rival press tallies, which had drawn increasing criticism three days after Monday's balloting.

But the MCQC, a media consortium that was the only group authorised to keep counting, continued to update its results at a snail's pace and was knocked out of commission for four hours Thursday by computer problems.

With no firm trend still in sight, House Speaker Ramon Mitra became the first of the rearguard candidates to concede defeat while Aquino chastised Santiago for claiming victory Wednesday.

"I do not deem it wise or prudent for candidates to claim victory based on five percent of the returns," the president said in a statement.

Mitra, backed by the country's largest party, the Struggle for a Democratic Philippines (LDP), threw in the towel as he was running behind all the candidates except Vice President Salvador Laurel.

Once considered a leading contender, the 64-year-old Mitra said his vaunted political machinery collapsed on election day, and he fell victim to changing times in Philippine politics. "There is now really a definite resistance against traditional politicians," said Mitra, a veteran politician. "Well, that's good for the country. Nobody can be sure of his district now, his constituency. We really have to sit down and reflect on this," he said in an interview with the MANILA TIMES.

Aquino abandoned her party, the LDP, after it chose Mitra in a presidential convention and threw her support behind

Ramos, who helped install her in power in 1986 and saved her government from seven military coup attempts.

The Philippine stock market, enjoying one of its strongest showings in the wake of Monday's largely peaceful and orderly polls, continued its upswing, posting a 0.7 percent increase in the composite index.

Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said the election was "very good" for the country's battered image.

"I am sure that the investments will begin to really come in and not only from the domestic investors but also from foreign investors," he told journalists. "From what I know people have just been waiting for a credible election process."

Computer Outage Causes Delay

HK1505012092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Some journalists have expressed fears that the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] is tampering with the results of the election to favor a certain candidate. Such fears were raised when MCQC computers broke down around noon yesterday, but MCQC media coordinator Philip Lustre said the computers were overloaded. He said initial returns would be ready by 1500 [0700 GMT].

Lustre said results of early counting were lost because of computer breakdown, but the MCQC is now utilizing back-up units to tabulate the data anew. He said this would delay matters for a few hours. The new vote returns are expected around 1700 [0900 GMT].

Delays in Vote Counting Detailed

HK1505075592 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 15 May 92 pp 1, 8

[By Elizabeth Perez]

[Text] Canvassing of election returns has been stalled in 20 municipalities nationwide due to delaying tactics and harassment of canvassing officials by certain candidates and their supporters, the Commission on Elections [Comelec] said yesterday.

At the same time, the poll body also suspended the national canvass of senatorial votes because not a single certificate of canvass arrived from the country's 73 provinces and 20 cities yesterday.

In a press briefing, Comelec Commissioner Dario Rama identified the areas where canvassing has been delayed as Mandaluyong in Metro Manila; Mariveles and Limay in Bataan; Meycauayan, Plaridel, and Remecios Trinidad in Bulacan; Floridablanca, Macabebe, Minalin, and Sto. Tomas in Pampanga; Binan, Cabuyao, San Pedro, and Sta. Ana in Laguna; Pililla and Tanay in Rizal; Tayabas and Mauban in Quezon; Capas in Tarlac; and Argao in Cebu province.

Canvassing in the rest of the country's 1,542 municipalities, however, has started and is "proceeding smoothly," Rama assured.

Rama said canvassing had been disrupted in certain municipalities due to several complaints filed by certain candidates and their supporters. These complaints range from outright charges of cheating to allegations of vote-buying and ballot-snatching or switching, he added.

Rama appealed to all candidates and their supporters to exercise patience and sobriety, explaining that canvassing in the municipal or city level is the "most tedious" phase of the election process and thus should not be unduly delayed.

He said complainants should file formal petitions and present evidence to the Comelec so the poll body can immediately resolve these complaints and canvassing can proceed.

"We assure them (complainants) that we will not sit on their petitions because we ourselves don't want the canvassing to be delayed," he added.

Since canvassing started last Tuesday, the commission has been swamped with 30 pre-proclamation cases, Rama said.

Despite a lean legal staff of only 23 lawyers, however, the Comelec has been able to resolve all the complaints, he added.

Rama said three of the poll body's commissioners personally went to the problem areas to settle canvassing disputes.

Commissioner Haydee Yorac, for instance, met with political leader Mandaluyong and Pasay to settle allegations of widespread fraud and cheating. Commissioner Vicente de Lima, on the other hand, attended to canvassing disputes in Bulacan and Pampanga, while Commissioner Remedios Fernando met with local leaders and poll-watchers in Rizal and Laguna to smooth things out.

Rama assured that canvassing disputes in the other problem areas would be settled by noon today.

Meanwhile, commissioner Regalado Maambong said the poll body had temporarily postponed its canvassing of senatorial votes because none of the 93 certificates of canvass had arrived yet in Manila.

Maambong explained that the country's provincial boards of canvassers are not expected to submit their tabulations until tomorrow.

The canvassing session, however, will reconvene at 2 p.m. today.

"We just decided to open the national canvass formally so that if any of the smaller provinces can turn in their tallies ahead, we can canvass these right away," he explained.

Maambong said all provincial election supervisors had been ordered to airlift poll results so the Comelec could canvass them at once.

He added that canvassing and proclamation of senatorial winners was expected to take less than a week, "but only if we have all 93 certificates of canvass with us."

Maambong said the Comelec could not proclaim the country's next set of senators until it had tabulated all certificates of canvass from the 73 provinces and 20 cities nationwide.

The Comelec, however, is giving itself until June 11 to tally votes for the 163 candidates vying for 24 senatorial posts.

Meanwhile, the Lakas-NUCD [Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] of Fidel Ramos asked the Comelec to take "stricter measures" to safeguard the ballot and speed up the transmission of results from at least six regions.

Raul Goco, the party's legal counsel, said in a statement that unless the Comelec "moves fast," there's a great possibility that election results in six regions where he said Ramos is strong may be tampered with.

He identified these areas as Regions 1, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

"The results from these regions come in quite slowly," Goco said.

"I hope the Comelec would send more people to guard the ballot boxes in these areas and ensure that the true will of the people is not thwarted."

Aquino Warns Against Early Victory Proclamations

HK1405142792 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] President Aquino warned today against early victory proclamation by any presidential candidate. This was the president's reaction to a statement by Miriam Defensor Santiago that the voting trend will not change again. The president said only 50 percent of the total votes have been accounted for. Tanny Rodriguez reports:

[Rodriguez] The president also warned candidates who want to use the election to divide the people, whether at municipal, provincial, or city level. The president said that the winners should be congratulated and be helped in leading the country. She commended Struggle of Filipino Democrats presidential candidate Ramon Mitra for his gentlemanly behavior, and other candidates who have conceded defeat. At the same time, the president denied the United States' suspicion of possible cheating following slow counting of election returns.

Santiago Suggests Ramos Has 'Underhanded' Plot

HK1505052692 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Miriam Defensor Santiago, the leading contender in the presidential race, has just finished addressing the Asian Institute of Tourism. She criticized statements by people in the Fidel Ramos camp predicting that she will soon be overtaken by Ramos. Santiago said Ramos would not say this unless he was plotting something underhanded.

Santiago said she is scheduled to lead a mass demonstration in Iloilo to point up widespread fraud in the recent counting of votes.

Meanwhile, vice presidential contender Jun Magsaysay made these remarks:

[Begin recording in English] [Magsaysay] According to her, this is for the people in the country that the will of the people should be the one that will prevail.

[Unidentified reporter] So do you think that what Miriam is doing is escalating tension a bit in an already nervous country?

[Magsaysay] That is a matter of opinion. We do not want a leader to just sit back while the people's will is trampled upon. So it is the leader's decision, her initiative to move when necessary.

[Unidentified reporter] So in your view, [words indistinct] there is a trend?

[Magsaysay] We have started getting some affidavits from the provinces, especially Pangasinan, that there have been some xeroxed copies of ballots. [end recording]

Vice presidential candidate Jun Magsaysay confirmed that they have received several affidavits which show that fraud has occurred in various places. He added that they would continue protecting the ballot to protect the wishes of the people.

Aquino Challenges Allegations

HK1505101892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 15 May 92

[By Dick Sinchongco]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has challenged People's Reform Party candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago to file with the Commission on Election [Comelec] the necessary petition regarding the alleged fraud committed against her by administration candidate Fidel Ramos. In an ambush interview, the president said everybody should strive to respect the people's decision in the elections. She explained that should there be any complaint about fraud, this has to be filed with the Comelec. The president said:

[Begin Aquino recording in English] I have said from the very beginning that all of us should endeavor to make sure that the people's will is respected and this is what I have been saying all along. Now, if anybody has any information about cheating, the proper thing to do is to go to the Comelec. [end recording]

This is the president's reaction to a reported threat by Santiago to call for people power in protest against alleged cheating after Ramos took the votes count lead from her. Santiago has been claiming victory in the election even though the Comelec has not announced its official canvassing result.

Santiago Threatens To Lead 'People Power' Plan

Civil Disobedience Possible

HK1505040392 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST in English 15 May 92 p 14

[By Michael Bociurkiw in Manila]

[Excerpt] Self-proclaimed Philippines presidential winner Mrs Miriam Defensor Santiago said yesterday she was planning a massive civil disobedience movement on the scale of the 1986 "People Power" revolution if election results show her a loser.

But President Mrs Corazon Aquino indirectly rebuked the anti-corruption crusader for prematurely claiming victory, saying she did not "deem it wise or prudent for candidates to claim victory based on five per cent of the returns".

Mrs Santiago and former defence chief Mr Fidel Ramos are locked in a closely-fought battle to succeed Mrs Aquino, with unofficial tallies from Monday's election variously placing either with a slim lead. Mrs Aquino is backing Mr Ramos to succeed her.

Saying there was no way she could lose after early results and previous public opinion surveys put her in the No 1 spot, Mrs Santiago told the SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST she believed the only way she could be denied the presidency was from vote-rigging.

"I would spark a civil disobedience movement," Mrs Santiago said.

"It's exactly what President Aquino did in 1986."

Mrs Santiago said the action would include mass demonstrations involving members of her People's Reform party and other supporters.

It was the first time that the feisty, ex-judge has brought up the possibility of civil unrest and her remarks are sure to escalate tensions in the already jittery nation.

Mrs Santiago said she would be justified in taking to the streets if later results show a sudden reversal in her lead.

"I doubt very much the Filipino people would find that development comprehensible and acceptable," she said.

She said past experience had shown that demanding a recount or other forms of redress through the courts were not effective within the slow Philippine judicial system.

Mrs Santiago said she held meetings on Wednesday with Vice-President Mr Salvador Laurel and House Speaker Mr Ramon Mitra, both of whom have conceded defeat. She said that her presidency could require a "working relationship" with the two politicians and with the rival Liberal Party of Mr Jovito Salonga.

Mr Laurel, who was trailing in the seven-member field, called on his supporters to prevent Mrs Santiago from being cheated out of victory. He offered her his opposition Nacionalista Party supporters to watch ballot counting. [passage omitted]

Plan Violates Code

HK1505100392 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 15 May 92

[By Robert Rivero]

[Text] The Supreme Court alone can take legal action on any protest filed with regard to the results of the elections. According to the Commission on Elections [Comelec], Miriam Defensor Santiago's plan to launch people power is a violation of the election code.

Comelec Commissioner Dario Rama said that any action taken by candidates running for national positions must be in accordance with the law. Aside from this, all presidential candidates have signed a manifesto to abide by the election guidelines specified in the Constitution.

It will be recalled that Santiago is still leading in the Media Citizen's Quick Count's vote canvassing. Here is Commissioner Rama with his statement:

[Begin Rama recording in English] May I remind the candidates that when they filed their certificates of candidacy, among others, the [word indistinct] provided by the Constitution. In the case of presidential candidates, the Constitution provides, and we would like to read in Article 7, Section 4, [word indistinct] paragraph: The Supreme Court, sitting en banc, shall be the sole judge of all conflict [word indistinct] the election returns and qualifications of the president or vice president, and we will promulgate these rules.

Any presidential candidate, any vice presidential candidate for that matter, or any question relating to the election returns, the qualifications of the candidate, or any protest regarding the results of the elections, they can file their protests or questions before the Supreme Court. In that part, we would like to remind the candidates that [word indistinct] certificates of candidacies have been filed in the form provided by the Constitution. Still and on top of that, if the candidate for president signed the manifesto—remember the manifesto signed by the presidential candidates two weeks ago—among others, it is stated there, a promise that they will not resort to people power. This is the law of the electorate. [end recording]

Aquino Rejects Plan

HK1505092892 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0753 GMT 15 May 92

[By Rowena Papasin in Malacanang]

[Text] Malacanang has rejected today a call for people's power to ensure there is no fraud committed in counting election returns. At the same time, President Aquino called on all Filipinos to respect the will of the people manifested in the election. The president issued the call in reaction to alleged plans by People's Reform Party candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago to call for people's power to nullify any election results showing her as the loser. In the latest count, Santiago's lead over Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats candidate Fidel Ramos has been reduced.

Meanwhile, Nationalist People's Coalition candidate Eduardo Cojuangco expressed the belief he will be the eventual winner in the elections.

In an ambush interview today, President Aquino said that right at the start, she issued a call to respect the verdict of the nation. She stressed that anybody who has information on the alleged election fraud should file their complaint at the Commission on Elections [Comelec].

In related news, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon called on everybody to remain calm and wait for the Comelec and the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC] to finish their job. Drilon stressed that the country's future rests on the tranquility of the people. He said that people power is not needed to secure the sanctity of the ballot because the Comelec has seen a credible 11 May elections.

[Begin Drilon recording in English] We appeal for calm and sobriety and let's allow Comelec and the MCQC to finish its work. It is the future of the country at stake, so we appeal to everyone to keep calm and sober. Let us wait for the Comelec and the MCQC to finish its job. Everybody cooperated to have peaceful and orderly elections last Monday. We made a lot of progress as a nation in terms of stability and it is unfortunate that the conduct of the entire Filipino nation and the effort of the president, the Comelec and the citizenry to have an orderly election would be wasted if such action were taken. There is no need for people's power. Our agencies in charge of the elections are performing their jobs. Let's allow them to finish their work. [end recording]

Santiago Expresses Confidence in TV Interview

HK1405114592 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in English 1445 GMT 13 May 92

[Interview with presidential candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago by program host Louie Beltran; from the "Straight from the Shoulder" program—live; italicized passages in Tagalog]

[Excerpts] [Beltran] Welcome to tonight's edition of "Straight from the Shoulder." In the past two days, the count on the presidential election has been going on, and starting tomorrow, only one count will be flashed on your television screens, the MCQC [Media Citizens Quick Count], but in all the counts that have been made, the leading candidate has been Miriam Defensor Santiago and the second, throughout the counting, is Lakas [Strength] candidate Fidel Ramos.

Over the past two days, Secretary Ramos has been on all television programs, saying that he will always welcome Secretary Santiago's lead, etc. A lot of officials have been calling our offices and asking if we could keep hold of the leading candidate in the count, since the number two has been doing a lot of the talking. We tried and we won, in a way, because she is going to be with us: Live, direct, and able to answer all of your questions, including some of the disturbing questions that are in the minds of a lot of our people. I think from the past two days also, everybody has been talking about clean and honest elections and we at the GMA Network News think it ain't necessarily so.

We'll talk to the leading candidate in the polls and discuss what could be happening in the next few days or next few weeks. With us is going to be Secretary Miriam Defensor Santiago, who is leading the total tabulations of the MCQC, and our first question ought to be how this is after the complain? [sentence as heard]

[Santiago] Yes, I believe that the champion in distress has finally turned [word indistinct], and I am happpy and grateful and proud of my country now that the results are in. [passage omitted]

[Beltran] This is going directly to the point: Secretary Ramos has been on all the television programs and has been making his own analysis. He says that while you are leading now, when the votes from Mindanao and the Visayas come in, he's going to overtake you and he's asking to give a press conference. He said he would always thank you and there would be no looking back. What's your reaction?

[Santiago] People respond in different ways to distressful situations, particularly if the situation is being the [word indistinct] is possibly depression. Some people are gracious in defeat. Some people bitch about it. So it depends under what category. So therefore, in the present instance, I believe that the behavioral pattern falls under the second category. [laughs]

[Beltran] A lot of your followers may have been disheartened by this kind of analysis. I'm sure you have your own organization. I am sure you are getting reports from the provinces. As far as you are concerned, what does it look like? Are you getting most from the rural areas?

[Santiago] It's not a question of my own physical perceptions or how I look at things, it is a question of how things actually are. We are in the third day of the tabulation and I have been consistently leading in the tabulation and never in the political victory of the Republic of the Philippines has a presidential candidate so consistently led in the electoral tabulations for three days and yet managed to lose at the final day. So, the momentum of revenge has already been established. [sentence as heard] A person or any group in this country can hope or aspire to tamper with this momentum only at his own risk and we will have to be prepared to face the consequences. [passage omitted]

[Beltran] Okay, we'll play the same game that some of the interviewers were playing with Secretary Ramos. I think they asked him what would be his cabinet. What cabinet would a Miriam Santiago cabinet be?

[Santiago] I already said in the campaign period that at least half of my cabinet will be 40 years old and below. It is essential that we must have new blood in the incoming cabinet because the sheer physical rigors of work in the executive department demand the person must fullfill not only the necessary physical and mental, possibly emotional, fortitude but he must be willing to be a hands-on administrator. He cannot afford to have a best job for six years. So at least half of them must be young men and women. The other half, should be highly successful professionals who have already earned their laurels in their respective fields of endeavor, but in any event, the cabinet must be a balanced mix.

[Beltran] The way I read this is that a lot of your cabinet members are going to be from the private sector. Below 40 and then the ones who are professionals, so most of them would come from the private sector.

[Santiago] I would not entirely discount the possibility that some of them might even come from rival political camps who were engaged against me in the last campaign. In other words, I would not be beyond requesting my own political opponents to join me, my administration, possibly through the cabinet or in some governmental position. [passage omitted]

[Beltran] Do you believe that you accomplished something—we'll leave it for the Comelec to decide what the outcome is—but I've read some articles written abroad, I think, some of the television coverage of what you've done, and most of them are in extreme admiration of the fact that you started from nowhere. I mean you were a fired cabinet minister. Your only post of distinction was the Immigration Commission. You are 46 years old, a former judge, still a college professor until recently, I think. Are you still there?

[Santiago] I'm still in the faculty row of University of the Philippines.

[Beltran] All of a sudden you're number one in the preliminary counting, no? And suddenly there is a very real prospect that you're becoming president. What do you think happened? I mean, most people can't figure it out: You don't have money; you don't have the organization; I understand that a lot of the people that invited you to speak even paid for your airplane fare.

[Santiago] Right, for three years.

[Beltran] And all of a sudden you're there. What did just happen in that two-year intervening period? What was it that played.... [Beltran, changes thought] What was it that caught the imagination of the Filipino people?

[Santiago] Who knows. It is not even for me to say who controls, who can calibrate, what circulates in the hearts and minds of every Filipino as he watches his country go into deep economic, but also moral recession. *I guess that is basically it.* And because I am a churchgoing Christian, a Catholic, I will have to reduce this eventually to a denominator that is comprehensible to me as a churchgoing Catholic. I can only explain it as the working of the Holy Spirit on this Catholic country. *It is clear that we cannot explain what happened here by reason or logic.* It is outside the perimeters of reason and of logic that a nonpolitician like me, so obviously handicapped at the start of the presidential race, in fact a total non-entity, a zephyr, should now, after three days, emerge as the clear front runner in the electoral tabulations and the potential winner at the end of the tabulating period.

I cannot even explain it myself. I am not that good nor am I that intelligent. And my margin of professional merit over my rivals might not be that substantial. *So the only explanation that I could come up with is that* if push comes to shove and I am required to make an intellectual reply to the inquiry, it is simply that there is an infinite intelligence that orders the universe. *There is really a powerful source whence all this power emanates.*

[Beltran] Did you talk this over with Cardinal Sin? [Santiago, chuckles] You went to see him the other day. That sounds like something a cardinal would appreciate, or what a priest would empathize with.

[Santiago] It's not merely because of my audience with Cardinal Sin, *rather it is because I've been going regularly to my parish church since last Monday's election*—an exercise that I thoroughly went through for the last few months of the campaign period.

I have always delivered myself to the will of a being infinitely wiser and more perceptive than I am. That is why I am able, at this point, when everybody seems to be overly concerned about whether my enemies might be conducting covert operations to overturn the will of the people, or to manipulate the media to prepare the minds of the people for an eventual reversal of so clear electoral fortune, to keep unruffled in the face of all these developments. I do not believe that a momentous occasion such as the choice of a president that will lead 62 million Filipinos for the next six years—and in that capacity improve not only on the Philippines, on Asia, but on the rest on the international community—I refuse to believe that this phenomenon can be solely and directly controlled and managed only by human expertise or human will. We must input a supernatural factor into this equation.

[Beltran] Okay, we have a lot of questions here and I'd like to give them a chance to be able to ask you directly. Attorney Sancho Almeda, Laguna: Will you get the best and the brightest to help you in carving out a new future for the Philippines? Will you form a scout team to look for this [word indistinct]?

[Santiago] Yes, I have to form a committee whose only function will be executive search and my behavioral pattern in this respect has already been displayed when I was immigration commissioner. I gathered, as my associate commissioner and part of my executive staff, people whom I did not even know personally but who had very high standing in their respective professions. [passage omitted]

[Beltran] From Gloria Manalang, of San Juan: If you become the next president of the country will you allow the Cardinal to dictate to you just like.... [Beltran rewords letter] Would you allow the Cardinal to dictate to you?

[Santiago] Cardinal Sin is one of the most highly trained and intellectual religious leaders in the country. He has a doctorate from Rome, if I remember, just like many archbishops and bishops. And he knows that he has no.... [changes thought] And he knows that because it would be totally inappropriate, and possibly ineffective.... [changes thought] I believe that even he, himself, has no aptitude for this direction. So there is no basis for that fear expressed and certainly I would resent it if it came from any religious quarter because our Constitutional provision for separation of church and state shall be inviolable. [passage omitted]

[Beltran] We have at least a number of questions here about Vice President Joseph Estrada [as heard]. How are you going to deal with Vice President Estrada? What kind of performance will you get? Will you have a tough time working with Joseph Estrada as your vice president? What will you do to prevent animosity with your vice president? If Joseph Estrada would be your vice president, would you try to ignore him like what is being done to Vice President Laurel now?

[Santiago] *Senator Estrada and I are friends. I have been looking at his track record in San Juan and it is quite good, especially on law enforcement. So, I think we can work together.*

[Beltran] I would like to ask you the same question, so you can reiterate it to the viewers: In the event that you are, or your attitude as far as the counting is concerned, you said that you are going to wait until the Comelec makes a declaration.

[Santiago] Well actually, we have no choice. That's what the law says.

[Beltran] You don't feel that you need to take any action except in the event of what the Supreme Court calls executorial improbabilities.

[Santiago] *As of now, all my people have been mobilized. My counting headquarters has only a few staff left because they've gone around the country monitoring this alleged special operation to manipulate, at the last hour, the election result because the message conveyed by the three-day counting has been very strong and clear with regard to who the people want to be the country's president. But when the time comes when we are ordered to stop the ballot counting, which is not in accordance with what the people want, our legal system dictates that there are legal remedies.*

Criticised for Claiming Victory

HK1505024092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 15 May 92 pp 1, 8

[By Amando Doronila]

[Text] Mrs Miriam Defensor Sanitago appears setting the stage to challenge the presidential election results, either through the courts or through a mass protest movement, as the tabulation shows General Fidel Ramos whittling down the narrow lead she has established during the past four days.

Indications that she would not accept defeat gracefully in the tight contest were reinforced the other night, when, in a TV interview with Luis Beltran, she proclaimed herself winner on two premises:

First, she had topped pre-election poll surveys, and second, she had been leading in the unofficial media counts.

She asserted emphatically in the interview that, on these bases, she could not but win, and that if she lost in the end, the inevitable conclusion was that she had been cheated. She then suggested that in line with the doctrine of "statistical probability" handed down by a previous Supreme Court decision, results showing she had lost could be challenged in court. She has also issued inflammatory statements that could incite her supporters into refusing to accept the official results, which will be decided by the Commission on Elections [Comelec].

Her predispositions to reject any outcome other than her victory, was further emphasized by a statement she issued last night that a result showing her defeat would be "incomprehensible and unacceptable."

Her TV remarks came at a time when the MCQC [Media Citizens Quick Count] tabulation indicated that Ramos, who had been a close second, since last Monday, was closing the gap and when only less than 5% of the estimated total vote of 27 million had been tabulated.

Statistical authorities insist that in a closely fought election, with seven presidential candidates, it was statistically flimsy to claim victory on the basis of 5%.

The Comelec itself, the official arbiter, has warned candidates against premature claims of victory, saying that the published reports during the first three days after the election did not establish a trend. This statement appeared intended to counter Santiago's claim that there was already an "irreversible trend" in her favor.

One of the factors that has put Santiago ahead of the others is that the first heavy returns came from the National Capital Region and Western Visayas, where she is perceived strong, and tabulation is a slow process. But as more votes from other regions were tabulated, her lead narrowed.

When Santiago proclaimed the inevitability of her victory on Wednesday evening, Ramos, by the Media-Citizens Quick Count tabulation, had reduced her lead to 3% from 6%, with less than 5% of the vote tabulated.

In her TV interview, Santiago said that never in the history of Philippine elections had it ever happened that the presidential candidate who had led the count in the first three days lost in the final count, implying that the first three days had established a trend.

But research easily disproves her. Morever, she ignored—or chose to ignore—that in past elections (1) there were in general only two presidential candidates, except in 1957, when there were four, and therefore it was relatively easier to establish a trend; and (2) the unofficial tabulation was much faster than it is today, partly because of the larger number of officials being elected, thereby taking more time to process the returns.

Nonetheless, no one familiar with statistical methods, can reasonably claim that results based on less than 5% of total votes cast can establish an "irreversible trend."

In regard to the pre-election public-opinion surveys, research of past material shows that she had not always been on top as claimed by her. She and Ramos alternated for the first place, and in the last nationwide survey by Social Weather Stations before the election, covering the period April 26 to May 4, Ramos regained the lead with 17.6%, against Mrs. Santiago's 16.4%.

In that same poll, about 30% were undecided, and how they voted is a critical factor in deciding the presidential outcome.

Although Santiago had agreed with her six rivals to accept the official Comelec count in a pact intended to avert conflict, and although in her TV interview she said that Comelec was doing an honest job, she at the same time was doing things that foreshadowed she would not respect the pact. She contradicted herself when she said that Comelec was doing a good job and its verdict should be awaited, while at the same time proclaiming herself winner.

On the strength of results based on less than 5% of the vote, Santiago has been acting as though she had already been elected. She sought audience with Jaime Cardinal Sin, obviously to thank the bishops for their efforts to keep the election clean; she has been talking about forming her Cabinet and a working relationship with Congress; she has contacted apparently winning congressmen to seek their cooperation; and she has contacted public relations and advertising groups to package her image as a nonconfrontational president.

She appears conditioning the mind of the public that, if she did not win, she had been cheated. She has asked Cardinal Sin to use his influence to avert cheating, as though this were already an inevitable, and this line is pure reductionist. It is hard to argue against this because it does not accept any evidence that goes against her conclusions that she is going to be cheated. It is an argument that smacks of intolerance.

Even before the election, especially in one of the debates sponsored by the Philippine Bar Association at Manila Hotel, Santiago already concluded that, based on the surveys, there was no way she could lose, and if she lost, it would only mean she had been cheated.

Yesterday's statement that it would be "incomprehensible and unacceptable" if the result showed she had lost reveals a deterministic conclusion impervious to facts. In the recent British general elections, the pre-poll opinion surveys indicated a cliff-hanger election, with the Tory Party in trouble of losing government. But the results gave the Tories a handsome majority over Labor. This indicates that poll surveys are not the fool-proof determinant of election outcome and that they, indeed, can go wrong, otherwise it can be argued, what's the point of holding elections if the surveys are to be the bases for claiming victory. In other words, elections can validate or invalidate poll surveys.

The doubts being raised by the Santiago camp over the integrity and credibility of the MCQC and the line that she is going to be cheated in the counting also imply that the Comelec could be an instrument to cheat the election.

These assumptions fly in the face of demonstrable evidence about the independence of both MCQC, a collective effort of the media industry, and of the Comelec. The present Comelec has demonstrated its independence and its fairness and evenhanded leadership under Christian Monsod has generally been applauded and recognized. The present Comelec is not like the corrupt Marcos Comelec in 1986 which was used as an instrument to cheat and to rig the results. That's why the computer operators led by Mrs. Linda Kapunan walked out in protest against the rigging.

Even though the flow of returns is slow, the scenario of the media-led MCQC and the Comelec being used as tools to cheat Santiago mocks evidence and reality.

Santiago has revealed that what is irreversible is her conviction that she could not lose under any circumstance, and the position that she cannot accept any result except her victory introduces an element of volatility and instability. It fuels post-election tensions after it has been established that so far the electoral process has been fair.

Santiago is therefore demonstrating that she canot play the rules of the game set by the Comelec, and she is disposed to write and impose her own rules in which she can never lose. Her values are incompatible with the rules of democratic competition.

Abadia Rejects Santiago's Plea for Support

HK1505102492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0943 GMT 15 May 92

[By Rodney Jaleco]

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, has rejected a request by a leader of former Agrarian Reform secretary and presidential candidate Miriam Defensor Santiago for the military to help her candidacy. The AFP chief admitted meeting Tony Leviste, People's Reform Party secretary general, who requested the military's support against an alleged plan to cheat Defensor in counting ballots. Abadia said he rejected Defensor's request because the military, he said, does not side with anybody. He added that it is premature to say that Defensor has won because only 50 percent of the total votes have been counted by the Media Citizens Quick Count. Abadia reiterated that the AFP will continue to be neutral and impartial. At the same time, Abadia appealed to the candidates to remain calm while the votes are still being counted. He said that Leviste met him at his office in Camp Aguinaldo today.

Ramos' Party Accuses Cojuangco of Fraud

HK1505062792 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 15 May 92 p 8

[By Manny Mogato]

[Text] San Fernando, La Union—Local leaders of the administration-backed Lakas [Strength]—National Union of Christian Democrats (Lakas-NUCD) coalition yesterday accused the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) of massive cheating and vote buying in the province during Monday's national elections.

Lawyer Joaquin "Quinning" Ortega, the Lakas-NUCD provincial campaign manager, said the NPC used a "pattern of cheating" to boost the candidacy of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, who has been trailing in the initial count of the Media Citizens Quick Count [MCQC].

"This is not a local scheme," Ortega said. "This is a nationally prepared plan by the NPC to outright cheating," especially in northern Luzon where they are boasting of tremendous support."

Ortega observed a pattern of fraud by disenfranchising a large number of voters in the province through vote buying, intimidation, coercion and switching of election returns. At least 10 percent of election returns appeared to be questionable, Ortega added.

He also observed that what is happening in La Union is being duplicated in other provinces in Luzon, particularly in Tarlac, where poll watchers were given other duties to distract their attention from the counting and canvassing of votes in the precincts.

Ortega said they have evidence to prove their accusations.

He showed several photographs of ballot boxes without locks being transported and other election paraphernalia found on teachers carrying them to the Comelec [Commission of Elections] office here.

Another evidence is a crumpled, unused Comelec seal found near the Comelec garbage can inside the Marcos building here.

Lakas-NUCD gubernatorial candidate Justo Orros also said violations in the electoral procedures, particularly in the submission and transport of election returns and other paraphernalia in the province. [sentence as published]

Orros said they saw ballot boxes being brought to the municipal elections office instead of the municipal treasurers office, where the ballot boxes are supposed to be kept before they are opened for canvassing.

Orros also said most of the ballot boxes brought to the town hall were open, and observed several teachers stamping the ballot boxes with envelopes before delivering them to the local Comelec office here.

There were also reports of 30 missing ballot boxes, whose election returns were later found in one ballot box inside the local Comelec office.

Orros, locked in a neck and neck race with his uncle, the incumbent Gov. Joaquin "Titing" Ortega, feared this irregularity might cost him his victory.

As of 6 a.m. yesterday, Orros leads Ortega with an initial count of 2,800 votes.

Apart from the irregularities, Orros also complained about the slow canvassing.

The local MCQC chapter, headed by Catholic priests Alfonso Lacasamana and Marlon Singson agreed with Orros' observation. They also complained their operation was hampered by lack of volunteers and access to the Advance Copies of Election Returns (Acers).

"There has been an agreement between the MCQC and the Comelec to give us copies of the Acers to facilitate a quicker counting of votes but unfortunately we're not receiving our copies," Lacsarmana said.

"They are ignoring our requests for copies of the Acers," he added.

But local Comelec registrar Luis Rimando denied the allegations of the Lakas-NUCD leaders and the MCQC local chapter. He said there were no irregularities. "The records would bear met out," he said.

Rimando said he would welcome written complaints from parties.

Ortega, Lakas campaign manager, has written Rimando asking him to explain the missing election returns, the open ballot boxes and the other irregularities in the canvassing of votes.

Rimando has not answered yet.

One such complaint, Orlega said, was the delay in the delivery of several ballot boxes from Rimando's office to the treasurer's office.

The ballot boxes, Ortega said, arrived at Rimando's house on Tuesday morning but Rimando allegedly turned over these boxes to the treasurer's office at 11:45 p.m. Rimando said these was due to the teachers' confusion in the submission of election returns.

He said the province's polling precincts had been increased from 157 to 273 and a number of new teachers and volunteers did not have enough training for the elections.

But the Lakas-NUCD here was worried tension might escalate if the Comelec failed to stop these irregularities.

Already, some local leaders of the Lakas-NUCD are planning mass actions to protest these irregularities.

Muslim Rebel Chief Warns Cojuangco on Pact Breach

HK1405041092 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 14 May 92 pp 1, 6

[By Jerry Esplanada]

[Text] Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] Chairman Nur Misuari has warned that if Nationalist People's Coalition standard-bearer Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco reneges on his promise to implement the Tripoli Agreement, Muslim rebels will resume hostilities against the government.

Philippine missions in Saudi Arabia, particularly the consulate in Jiddah, are "monitoring Misuari's movements," reports reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] said.

But the DFA brushed aside reports of a pact between Cojuangco and the secessionist MNLF for the "full implementation" of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement in exchange for some 3.5 million Muslim votes.

The DFA said that as far as it was concerned, the MNLF "no longer poses a serious threat to the government."

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said earlier in a news briefing that the Armed Forces "is in a position to handle the MNLF threat."

Manglapus also said there was "no need to resume peace talks" with the separatist group.

Meanwhile, Cojuangco clarified yesterday that if he is elected, any peace agreement that his government will forge with separatist forces in Muslim Mindanao will be done under the terms of the Constitution.

"I am a Filipino first and foremost, and I will never accede to an agreement that will prejudice the interests of fellow Filipinos," Cojuangco said.

The agreement between Cojuangco and the MNLF virtually allows the creation of a separate Bangsa Moro [Muslim State] republic in 13 provinces and nine cities in Mindanao.

The term Bangsa Moro refers to the 25 ancient provinces under the old Sultanate of Sulu, including Tawi-Tawi, Sulu and what is now the Southern Tagalog province of Palawan.

Under the agreement, Cojuangco is also expected to support the MNLF's bid to become a regular member of the powerful Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC].

The 46-member OIC has thrice rejected the MNLF's application for full membership to the Muslim bloc where the MNLF holds observer status.

Former MNLF adviser and Ambassador to Kuwait Alunan Glang described the agreement between Cojuangco and the MNLF as "ill-advised." He said that with the forging of the agreement, "the MNLF failed to maintain its neutrality."

Ambassador to Washington Emmanuel Pelaez, a supporter of administration presidential candidate Fidel V. Ramos, has described the agreement as "an act of high treason and a betrayal of Philippine Democracy."

Late last year, MNLF spokesman Ustadz Sharif Zain Jali told newsmen they will not field candidates or participate in the May 11 elections because "we reject the constitutional process."

"The whole system is no good," Jali was quoted as saying "Maybe those (Muslims) who are participating are members who have surrendered and are no longer considered MNLF."

In an apparent turnabout, Jali and other MNLF representatives announced Thursday that Misuari, their exiled leader, has endorsed Cojuangco.

Jali said that prior to the endorsement, Cojuangco's emissaries negotiated with Misuari in Jiddah, Saudi Arabia, where the MNLF leader is now based.

Cojuangco signed the agreement on April 24, Jali said.

Jali said ulemas (Muslim religious leaders) and civilian leaders of the MNLF have directed members to support any candidate who will implement the Tripoli Agreement.

Cojuangco said his political rivals have twisted the facts on his talks with the MNLF for partisan political motives.

For example, he said, his rivals "omitted to point out that even the Tripoli Agreement clearly states that the Manila government has to abide by the terms of the Philippine Constitution."

Doubts Arise Over Mitra's Admission of Defeat

HK1505014492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] The Struggle of Filipino Democrats' Party and the People's Reform Party have reportedly set up an alliance to fight any attempts to commit fraud during the canvassing of votes. According to sources in both camps, Speaker Ramon Mitra's party and Miriam Defensor Santiago's party have agreed to keep watch over the counting of votes which is still not complete and have not been officially counted.

Earlier it had been reported that Speaker Mitra had conceded defeat in the poll. He blamed turncoats among his local party leaders and a refusal by the Church of Christ to endorse his candidacy for having contributed to his defeat.

Meanwhile, Mitra's media bureau says he has not formally conceded defeat, but they expect such a move may be made to reduce tension.

Mitra has reportedly said he may do any of three things: return to the media, engage in business, or shave his beard off to become anonymous. [sentence as heard]

Meanwhile, President Aquino praised Speaker Mitra's reported acceptance of defeat. She said this shows him to be a sportsman and a good example for other candidates who face defeat. The president called on other candidates to follow Mitra's example. She said the election should not be a reason for dividing the country. However, Mitra is saying that it is still not certain what the presidential race vote counting will bring. At the same time, he praised the Commission on Elections for fulfilling its duty well. In this connection, the Struggle of Filipino Democrats' standard bearer called on all parties to be conscious of their commitment to an orderly transfer of power. Mitra said his party continues to oppose any attempts to thwart the people's mandate.

Arrests Said To Disrupt Destabilization Plot

HK1505042392 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 15 May 92 p 3

[By Madelynn Dominguez and Robert Jaworski L. Abano]

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Lisandro Abadia yesterday confirmed reports that they had uncovered a new rightist destabilization plot codenamed "Olympic Day," but said the arrest of four rebel soldiers believed to be a part of the plot may have disrupted it.

Abadia said the military got wind of the alleged plot as early as Holy Week, April 12 to 18. "Olympic Day," he said, called for the staging of terrorist activities like bombings and assassinations intended to disrupt last Monday's elections.

But Abadia clarified that "Olympic Day" was not a coup plot but rather an attempt to destabilize the country and possibly force the postponement of the polls.

He said a statement released by the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [Nationalist Revolutionary Alliance]-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union (RAM-SFP-YOU) blending [as published] the "Aquino-Ramos-de Villa-Nazareno clique" for the series of blasts in the metropolis and outlying provinces days before and after the May 11 polls was part of the plot's disinformation campaign.

"They were trying to pin it on us," the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief said. He was reacting to claims that the clique was behind a grand design to usher in an administration-backed coup should Ramos lose the presidency.

President Aquino, on the other hand, denied the rightist rebels' claims, saying the clique was "non-existent."

"The facts are that no such clique exists and the credibility of these coup-rumor plotters is so low that their fairy tales are not worth answering," the presidential statement said.

Meanwhile, reports reaching Camp Crame yesterday said initial investigation showed that the bombings were the work of either the ultra-rightist group RAM-SFP-YOU or the banned Communist Party of the Philippines.

Chief Superintendent Wilfredo Reotutar, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief for operations, said yesterday that the group behind the bombings could have had two motives; to disrupt the post-election situation and to create an atmosphere to enable them to commit electoral fraud.

In another development, South Capitol Command director Marino L. Filart yesterday ordered police commanders to secure vital installations in their respective areas following intelligence reports that ultra-rightist rebels had been passing their forces to thwart the peaceful transfer of power from President Aquino to whoever would succeed her.

In a directive to Chief Superintendent Oscar Aquino and Orlando Macaspac, district directors of the Western Police District (WPD) and Southern Police District (SPD), respectively, Filart ordered the establishment of 24-hour patrols in their respective areas of jurisdiction to thwart any terroristic acts that may be committed by ultra-rightist.

Thailand

Commander Says Forces Ready To Deal With Rally

BK1405152292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Supreme Commander Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin reaffirmed that the armed forces will resort to peaceful actions in dealing with the rally that might be held on 17 May.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] the rally on 17 May?

[Kaset] This depends on the people in charge of maintaining internal peace. However, commanders of the armed forces and I, as well as those who are in charge of the internal situation, will try to prevent any untoward incident and unrest. We will try to maintain peace and order. We believe that the people now understand what happened in the past. No one should support wrongful actions. I believe that there will not be any more incidents that will cause unrest in Bangkok. [end recording]

Chief To Deploy Police Near Rally

BK1505021992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 92 p A2

[Text] The Police Department plans to station about 8,000 policemen around Sanam Luang and Ratchadamnoen Avenue to prevent any unrest when the Opposition stages what is expected to be another massive demonstration against Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun on Sunday.

If the police force is hard pressed in tackling any ugly incident that may arise, the Capital Security Command, which is under the jurisdiction of Army Commander in Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, would intevene, well-informed police sources said yesteray.

According to the sources, the police force includes 2,000 officers from the northern and southern Bangkok police bureaus, 1,000 anti-riot police from the Bangkok Metropolitan Police, 1,000 border patrol police, 3,000 from Special Branch Police and 1,000 from Crime Suppression Division.

In the demonstrations late last week, about 5,000 police were stationed around protest sites.

The sources said senior police officers—deputy police chief Pol Gen Manat Khrutchaiyan, assistant police chief Pol Lt Gen Chaloem Rotchanapradit and Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Maj Gen Narong Rianthong—would heed orders from Itsaraphong, in his capacity as capital security commander, to deal with possible riots.

Pol Gen Manat said police have laid down strategies to tackle various forms of terrorism. However, he said he expected no violence.

He said some anti-riot police would be stationed in areas out of the public view, ready to act if there was any violence.

Manat said police have been keeping a close watch on some people who he said have used the present political situation to provoke unrest.

The sources said Gen Suchinda and Interior Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalintha will visit the Police Department this evening to thank police for their performance at the demonstration sites late last week.

Today anti-riot police will rehearse measures to suppress unrest.

Meanwhile, Itsarapong said yesterday the extension of the Buddhism Week Fair at Sanam Luang, until next Wednesday was not politicised. The fair was initially scheduled to end tomorrow.

Interior Minister ACM Anan said the extension has nothing to do with an attempt to prevent the demonstrations.

Asked whether demonstrators could use Sanam Luang as their protest site, Anan said: "The fair is going on and there are a lot of people there. How can they come to demonstrate then?"

Asked if it would [be] illegal for the people to protest at Sanam Luang, the minister said it would be all right if the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration allowed them to use Sanam Luang.

Anan denied reports that the Interior Ministry plans to organize pro-Suchinda mobs to travel from upcountry to Bangkok.

Huge Rally Promised; Police Poised

BK1505021792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 May 92 pp 1, 3

[Excerpt] Pro-Democracy groups reaffirmed yesterday that they will go ahead with the planned demonstration at Sanam Luang on Sunday to demand the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun.

The groups comprising students, academics, non-governmental organisations and opposition parties agreed to forge a common front, called the Democracy Confederation, to coordinate the protest.

The decision was reached yesterday afternoon by 125 representatives from the organisations involved, including the Students' Federation of Thailand [SFT] and the Campaign for Popular Democracy, after a four-hour meeting at the Royal Hotel.

The meeting also agreed to appoint a seven-man executive committee to act on behalf of the confederation during the protest. The seven persons on the committee are former Phalang Tham Party [PDP] leader Maj-Gen Chamlong Simuang, slum worker Prathip Ungsongtham-Hata, SFT leader Prinya Thewanarumitkun, former student activists Dr Weng Tochirakan and Dr San Hattirat, labour leader Somsak Kosaisuk and Miss Chittrawadi Worachat, daughter of hunger striker Chalat Worachat.

Maj-Gen Chamlong at a joint press conference later reaffirmed the group's plan to organise the anti-Suchinda rally at Sanam Luang despite repeated Government attempts to block the protest and force them somewhere else.

He said a formal request was made to the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration [BMA] on May 11 to use Sanam Luang as the protest ground.

The thrust of the demonstration would be to force Prime Minister Suchinda to step down, he said, adding that the protest will not touch on constitutional amendment since political parties have not made serious efforts to that effect in Parliament.

Maj-Gen Chamlong added, however, that some political parties are trying to confuse the attempts by proposing more amendment points to try to bog down the Opposition's proposals.

"We want only one thing at the protest. The Prime Minister must resign," Maj-Gen Chamlong said.

Whether the demonstration will last more than one day or the crowd should be confined to Sanam Luang will depend on the protesters who join the Sunday rally, Maj-Gen Chamlong said. [passage omitted]

'Dirty Tricks' Alleged Against Opposition

BK1505071892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0632 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Bangkok, May 15 (AFP)—Supporters of Thai Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun are waging a concerted "dirty tricks" campaign against leading businessmen and politicians who oppose him, according to intelligence sources.

Several people on the list are believed to have suddenly gone into hiding as protests demanding Suchinda step down become more organised, the sources said.

"A hit list has been drawn up. It includes businessmen, government and opposition MPs and other influential people. All of them are considered a danger to Suchinda," said one intelligence official.

"Most of the people on the list know they are on and several have decided the safest thing to do would be to lie low while the current unrest continues," he added.

Another intelligence source said Thai intelligence units are trying to find something to discredit leading opposition MP Chamlong Simuang among the tens of thousands of demonstrators who have taken to the streets to back his calls for Suchinda's ouster.

Known to the general public as the "Mr. Clean" of Thai politics, the former governor of Bangkok was the driving force behind last week's street rallies, the biggest in the capital for almost 20 years.

Chamlong told journalists Thursday he was being shadowed by armed men and feared an assassination attempt might be made against him.

The Thai stock exchange has been swept by rumours that the "hit list" includes at least one leading bank family suspected of helping finance the New Aspiration Party—the largest opposition party, led by former supreme commander Chaowalit Yongchaiyuth.

"The rumours have had an effect on the market. The past couple of days has seen it fall," said one broker.

Analysts say the "dirty tricks" campaign is only the latest salvo in a bitter power struggle between the five-party pro-military coalition government and the four main opposition parties.

The opposition claim they are fighting for democracy and trying to end military dominance of the Thai political system, but a senior government official said in a background briefing this week that both sides were locked in a power battle.

He said democracy had little to do with the current struggle between Suchinda and opposition leaders, adding that raw political power was the real cause.

"Chamlong could be nominated for an Oscar for his skill at playing power politics," the official said.

Opposition forces are demanding immediate changes to the constitution, including a requirement that only an elected MP can become prime minister.

Suchinda, who was appointed by the coalition, would have to resign if the amendment were passed.

Another anti-Suchinda rally was planned for Sunday, and analysts expect that more than 200,000 people could attend.

The rallies have been peaceful until now, but fears are growing that this weekend's demonstration could end in violence.

At least one former Thai general has admitted in private that he is increasingly concerned that the demonstrations could end in bloodshed.

Even serving officers are becoming worried that the protests may finally be put down by force.

"The longer the demonstrations go on the greater the risk that things will turn violent. It is an explosive situation," said one army officer.

Suchinda, Government Partners Accused of 'Deceit'

BK1505031392 Bangkok THE NATION in English
15 May 92 p A8

[Editorial: "History Will Not Absolve Suchinda of Deceit"]

[Text] Hardly a day goes by without some new provocation from the government side in its confrontation with protesters demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun. On Wednesday there was the premier's veiled threat to sack Bangkok Governor Kristsada Arunwong a member of the opposition Phalang Tham Party, for providing last week's protest rallies with toilet trucks and water tanks. Yesterday Interior Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalintha suggested to the army chief that the army organized Wisakha Bucha events at Sanam Luang be extended to Sunday, instead of ending them on Saturday as orginally scheduled.

Army Commander Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi seemed to like the idea. "Nobody should have any objection. After all, the events are aimed at promoting the religion (Thai Buddhism)," he told reporters.

It is obvious that the government wants to thwart the rally to be held by the opposition at Sanam Luang on Sunday. The protest leaders called the rally before they dispersed the crowd occupying Ratchdamnoen Ave early last Monday.

The annual Wisakha Bucha events feature exhibits on Buddhism and the religious activities of Buddhist groups from several provinces. Some of these groups have worked closely with army units responsible for anticommunist propaganda by organizing activities at the grassroots level. But the annual events, which started last Sunday, have attracted lukewarm public interest. Most of the people at the scene were brought in by the organizers of the events to man exhibition booths and distribute leaflets. Few passersby dropped in to look because they had seen similar exhibits over the years; fewer still bother to make a trip to Sanam Luang just for the events.

So is there any possible reason why the government would extend the events through Sunday other than to interfere with the planned rally by the protesters? Anan's answer is this: "No special reason. We just want to extend it and that's final."

The government must know it cannot stop the Sunday rally. But this may be part of its strategy to discredit the protest leaders by portraying them as "anti-religion" and "trouble-makers." Such abuse of power and such an authoritarian attitude in the government will only make people more determined to join the anti-Suchinda side and attend the rally as a show of collective defiance.

With the premier's legitimacy at an all-time low and public distrust of the government high, the Suchinda administration's immediate reaction has been to retreat into its shell and resort to propaganda and intimidation to maintain control of the country. Under such authoritarian rule, the government cannot hope to restore normality. Harsher government action or brute force to stamp out dissent will make the public much more defiant. Civil disobedience and outright direct opposition will spread, making it pointless for Suchinda and his coalition government to try to hold on to power.

Our country can still avoid plunging into such a chaotic mess if Suchinda and the leaders of the government parties regain their reason and try to engage their opponents in a constructive dialogue, instead of infuriating them with double-talk and provocations. The opposition parties are willing to discuss how to amend the undemocratic Constitution, but the government parties are dragging their feet in spite of a tentative cooperation agreement with the opposition parties brokered by House Speaker Athit Urairat from the Samakkhi Tham Party last Saturday.

If the government parties refuse to cooperate, the opposition parties' attempt to amend the Constitution to disqualify Suchinda from holding the premiership is doomed to fail. Suchinda's opponents will then be left with no practical choice but to step up public mobilization and organize larger protest rallies.

How long Suchinda and his military backers can stand the pressure is anybody's guess. Suchinda is going on an upcountry inspection tour over the coming weekend, perhaps as a show of his confidence that the situation is under control. And his men and supporters are doing everything they can to frustrate the opposition parties and upset the protest leaders.

Suchinda's strategy is clearly designed to wear down the patience of his opponents inside and outside Parliament. Then he can claim that it is his opponents, not him, who are desperate and want to escalate the confrontation into a violent showdown.

In this age of easy access to information, Suchinda and his government will not be able to fool the people day in and day out.

Regardless of how this confrontation ends, history will not absolve him and his coalition partners of deceit.

Parties Urged To Fulfill Promises on Amendment

BK1405101592 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
14 May 92 p 3

[Editorial: "Pro-Government Parties Must Not Reverse Position"]

[Text] The promise of House of Representatives President Athit Urairat to use parliament to resolve the country's problem by amending the Constitution in conformity with the desire of the people is likely to be futile after senior officials of pro-government parties—such as the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, and Social

Action parties—have indicated that they are reversing their positions on the Constitution amendment.

On 9 May after meeting with representatives of nine pro-government and opposition parties, the house president said in a news conference that the participants agreed in principle to amend the Constitution on four points, including the requirement that the prime minister be an elected member of parliament. This agreement was reached at the height of the anti-Suchinda demonstration.

Although the representatives of the pro-government parties asked for time to consult with their parties, there was an understanding that they agreed to make the Constitution amendment in order to reduce political tension that arose from the huge demonstration which continued for several days, effectively dissolving the demonstration and creating hope that the country's problem could be solved through parliamentary procedures.

However, after the demonstration disbanded, several senior pro-government party leaders have been implying that consent must be sought from their parties. They have avoided making a firm commitment to amend the Constitution as agreed upon at the meeting of the nine parties. This lack of commitment diminishes the hope that the constitution will be amended to solve the country's problem or that the constitution will be more democratic.

According to National Assembly President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin, the combined meeting of the National Assembly could consider the Constitution amendment proposals in a first reading on 22 May if the pro-government parties submit them on 15 May.

If the pro-government parties do not submit the proposals, the National Assembly will have to consider the proposals of the opposition parties—the New Aspiration, Democrat, Phalang Tham, and Solidarity Parties—which were already submitted to the house president on 23 April. In that case, the chances of a successful amendment conforming with the desires of all concerned are certainly slim at best.

We appeal to the pro-government parties to show a greater sense of responsibility to the nation by paying more attention to the desire of the people and the national interest. Their glibness and efforts to hold on to their seats from day to day are not going to solve any problems. They are only transforming the phrase "sacrificing honesty for the nation" into an enduring political culture.

Kaset Agrees 'in Principle' With Move

BK1505022992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 92 p A1

[Excerpts] Supreme Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin said yesterday he agreed "in principle" with moves to amend the Constitution, but would not elaborate on what changes he felt were necessary. [passage omitted]

ACM Kaset did not make clear whether he was referring to proposals to limit the power of the military-dominated Senate or reserving the premiership for elected members of the House of Representatives.

The proposals concerning the Senate's power and the selection of the prime minister are included in the Opposition's amendment package, which also calls for the House speaker to concurrently assume the Parliament presidency and allow Parliament to take up non-legislative issues in both of its biannual sessions.

The five government coalition parties have yet to present their own amendment proposals, which are expected to vary from the Opposition's in terms of time-frame for implementation.

Samakkhi Tham, the biggest coalition party, and known to have close links with Kaset, is also known to be planning to propose more amendments. The party wants to maintain senators' powers but diminish the size of the upper chamber; allow the number of MPs to vary according to increases in population; lower the voting age from 20 to 18; and change the electoral system to require voters to choose only one MP in smaller constituencies.

Kaset, a senator, was asked to comment on the moves to amend the Constitution during an official visit to Udon Thani yesterday.

"As a senator, I agree in principle that the Constitution should be amended," he said.

He added that other senators would support proposed amendments "that aimed at protecting the national interest."

Senators, normally following senior military officers' guidelines, usually vote en bloc on crucial issues.

Past senators have always resisted attempts to constitutionally reduce the significance of the non-elected upper House, which previously has been primarily involved in screening, and sometimes delaying, draft legislation passed by the House of Representatives. [passage omitted]

Vietnam

Joint Venture With Hong Kong To Upgrade Airport

BK1505081992 Hanoi VNA in English 0636 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 15—Vietnam will form a joint venture with Hong Kong for the purpose of upgrading the Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi.

An accord has been initiated to this effect with CIC, the Hong Kong partner which will join the Vietnamese party in this 25-year joint venture.

Work will start in [words indistinct] to upgrade the terminals for international and domestic flights as well as support facilities, runways, and hotel.

CPV Economic Delegation Visits Laos

BK1405160792 Hanoi VNA in English 1429 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Hanoi, VNA May 14—Kaysone Phomihan, chairman of the Lao People Revolutionary Party Central Committee and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, received in Vientiane on May 13 a delegation of the Economic Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee led by Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the CPV Central Committee and head the commission.

The Lao leader welcomed the delegation's visit and stressed the traditional solidarity, the relations of special friendship and mutual cooperation and assistance between Laos and Vietnam. He stated that in the national construction and defence, firstly in economic and social construction, Laos has always maintained the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thinking.

While in Laos, the Vietnamese delegation called on Premier Khamtai Siphandon and had working sessions with Khamphoui Keoboualapha, Politburo member and minister of economic planning and finance, [name indistinct], Politburo member and secretary of the Vientiane Party Committee, and other ministers to exchange experiences on economic management and discuss ways to promote the economic cooperation between the two countries in the coming years.

The delegation left Vientiane for home this mowning.

Energy Cooperation Agreement Signed With Malaysia

BK1505073992 Hanoi VNA in English 0629 GMT 15 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 15—Vietnam and Malaysia on Thursday laid the cornerstone for cooperation in energy by signing two memorandums of understanding.

The documents, inked during the current Hanoi visit by a delegation from Malaysia's Ministry of Energy, Post, and Telecommunications, were described as "historic" by the head of the Malaysian delegation, Ms. Norminshoh Sabirin, deputy secretary general of the ministry.

Malaysia will participate in the construction of the north-south 500 powerline and will also help in building a 700 mw hydroelectric power plant on the Yali River in central Vietnam and a 600 mw thermal power station in the south.

As well, it will assist in expanding Vietnam's biggest thermal power plant at Pha Lai and in the production of electric cable. Plans are being made for Malaysia to provide Vietnam with technical and managerial training.

Visit by Cambodia's Prince Chakkrapong Viewed

BK1405130892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] After more than half a year since the signing of the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia, a high-ranking government leader of the State of Cambodia arrived for an official visit to Vietnam on Monday. On this event, our radio has this to say:

Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister Prince Norodom Chakkrapong is a son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia. In November last year he and his father, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, returned to Phnom Penh and were appointed a vice president and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia. Now he takes the position of deputy prime minister.

Although this was the first visit of a high-ranking Cambodian leader since the signing of the Paris agreement on Cambodia, the relations between the two countries have continued developing. This is evidenced by the visit to Cambodia several months ago by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. He was once received by Prince Sihanouk who affirmed Cambodia's continued wish to maintain and develop traditional friendship with Vietnam.

Deputy Prime Minister Chakkrapong's Vietnam visit is made right after Prince Sihanouk's visit to China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Through this Vietnam visit, both Vietnam and Cambodia will deploy their diplomatic activities as put out by Mr. Chakkrapong in Hanoi. This Vietnam visit will contribute to developing and strengthening the Cambodian-Vietnamese ties.

Report on Interview With Prince Chakkrapong

BK1505080892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Vietnam has contributed to the results of the Paris agreement on Cambodia and helped resolve the Cambodian issue. This was stated by Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, deputy prime minister of Cambodia on his current official friendship visit to Vietnam.

In an interview granted to the Voice of Vietnam on the implementation of the Paris agreement in the recent past, the prince said: [recording in Cambodian and fading into English translation] After the signing of the Paris peace agreement and the return of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia has been politically, socially, and economically stabilized. However, one faction has not strictly implemented the agreement, leading to the cease-fire violation such as an incident in Kompong Thom Province. Khmer Rouge troops shot at the helicopter of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC], wounding one Australian officer. This action violated the Paris agreement. For its part, the government of the State of Cambodia has not only scrupulously implemented the agreement, but also created favorable conditions for the UNAMIC and the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] to carry out their missions and in fact, these two international bodies have closely cooperated with the State of Cambodia and the latter is willing to come and study the situation in the country with the view to make the agreement work and the Cambodian people [word indistinct]. The party and the State of Cambodia really showed their wishes to see national reconciliation and an end to the armed conflict as they had declared, and followed the path of democracy and freedom.

Prince Norodom Chakkraphong pointed out that this is not simply a decoration, but in fact, the State of Cambodia has acted upon the proposal of the UNTAC and the aspiration of the Cambodian people. This is also the stand of the Cambodian party, the State of Cambodia, and Asian people. As a signatory to the Paris agreement, the State of Cambodia has strictly implemented the agreement.

Asked about his impression on his visit to Vietnam this time, the Prince said: This is the first delegation of the State of Cambodia to visit Vietnam since the signing of the Paris peace agreement on Cambodia on October 21, 1991. My first impression is that Vietnam has created conditions for the success of the Paris peace conference and has contributed to solving the Cambodian issue. These acts are of great significance to the political stability in the country and in Southeast Asia as a whole. The prince further said that for him, the Vietnamese people are very industrious and dynamic in national reconstruction and business under the light of renovation charted by the Communist Party of Vietnam. Some countries believe that Vietnam will soon become a dragon in economy. This assumption is well-grounded because Vietnam is rich in natural resources and the Vietnamese people are industrious and creative.

Commentary Views Nonaligned Movement Objectives

BK1405144792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 12 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The foreign ministerial conference of the nonaligned movement will be held in Bali, Indonesia on Tuesday. In this fast changing world situation, what will be the goals of nonaligned movement? Here are our views on the issue:

Representatives of more than 70 countries are present in Bali, Indonesia for the nonaligned foreign ministerial conference. The presentation at the conference showed that despite changes in the world, the nonaligned movement continues to develop with unchanged objectives of peace, nonalignment, and national independence.

At this conference, foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries reviewed the economic situation in developing countries and the heated issue of Afghanistan and the Middle East. Indonesia—the host country and also the chairman of the movement after Yugoslavia, the chairman of the movement, disintegrated—will certainly become more active to make the conference a success.

The Vietnamese delegation to the conference is led by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. The delegation brings to the conference Vietnam's stand on peace and friendship with all countries. The nonaligned movement will stand firm in its cause for peace and national independence.

Council Issues Decree on Export-Import Management

BK1405111392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 9 May 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently issued Decree No. 14-HDBT on state management over exports and imports.

The decree points out that except for certain kinds of goods cited, the list of goods banned from exportation and importation, and those subjected to export-import quota limitations, all goods are allowed to export or import freely but they must, however, be subjected to export or import taxation.

The decree stipulates that to engage in the export-import business, a trade enterprise shall have an export-import permit issued by the Ministry of Trade and Tourism.

In order to promote increased export-oriented production, Decree No. 14 also stipulates that those trade enterprises engaging in export-oriented production shall be exempted from business tax as specified in Article 2 of the law on business tax. If their earned income is used in the manufacture of exports, they shall receive a reduction in income tax as stipulated in Article 22 of the law on income tax. Those trade enterprises engaging in the manufacture of goods needed to replace imports shall be entitled to consideration for a reduction in their business and income taxes during their early periods of operation.

Those trade enterprises manufacturing goods under contract with foreign countries are entitled to various benefits. For instance, they may import tax-free equipment and materials needed for this purpose. Their money invested in the production of exports shall also be exempted from business tax.

Council Holds Conference on General Elections

BK1505102792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The Electoral Council held a national conference on 5-6 May in Hanoi to discuss preparations for the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly. Attending were leading comrades of the People's Councils, People's Committees, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, and heads of administrative agencies of provinces and municipalities throughout the country.

At the 5 May meeting, the conference heard the opening speech by Comrade Le Quang Dao, vice chairman of the Council of State, chairman of the National Assembly, and deputy chairman of the Electoral Council. Then they heard Comrade Vu Mao, head of the office of the National Assembly and the Council of State and member of the Electoral Council present some key points of the law on the election of National Assembly deputies and the Council of State's decisions on this election. The conference also heard a report on the Council of State's decision to establish the Electoral Council and its resolution on number of constituencies, the list of electoral units, and the number of deputies to be elected at each unit.

The conference also heard Comrade Pham Van Kiet, secretary general of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee report on a consultative meeting to select and draw up a list of candidates for election to the Ninth National Assembly. Later, Comrade Phan Ngoc Tuong, minister and head of the government committee for cadre organization, read the Council of Ministers' directive on the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly to be held on 19 July.

Delegates to the conference also heard a report on plans to propagandize the election of the Ninth National Assembly. The conference continued its work on 6 May.

Vu Oanh, Pham The Duyet at Youth Union Congress

BK1505070392 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] On the morning of 14 May, the Hanoi chapter of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union held its tenth congress. The congress was attended by 300 delegates representing 128,634 members from 768 city youth union grassroots organizations. Before the opening, the delegation visited the mausoleum of President Ho Chi Minh, the founding father of Vietnam's Communist Youth Union.

The congress focused on evaluation of the union's performance and the movements for Hanoi youth in the 1987-1992 period, before planning working programs for the union for 1992-1997. Attending the opening session were Comrade Vu Oanh, member of the party Political Bureau, and Comrade Pham The Duyet, member of the party Political Bureau and secretary of the Hanoi Party Committee.

Comrade Nguyen Manh Cuong, secretary of the Hanoi Youth Union, on behalf of the Ninth Executive Youth Committee, read a report at the congress. He said there are 550,000 youths in the 14-28 age group in Hanoi and they account for a fourth of the city's population. In order to educate and attract the youth for successful implementation of the plan to build a civilized and beautiful capital as outlined by the 11th Hanoi party committee congress, the congress set forth five programs of practical activity to fulfill the capital's socioeconomic duties.

The congress is to be held for three days, from 14 to 16 May 1992.

New Zealand

Dalai Lama Meets Prime Minister Bolger

BK1305100492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0919 GMT 13 May 92

[Text] Wellington, May 13 (AFP)—China is unlikely to face the kind of changes which broke up the Soviet Union, Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama said here Wednesday after meeting with New Zealand's prime minister.

Speaking to Parliament's Foreign Affairs Select Committee, the Dalai Lama said there were significant differences between China and the old Soviet Union.

China was ruled by first-generation revolutionary leaders and there was a culture of obedience, he said.

"The economic situation is better than it was in the Soviet Union. They will, for a few years, remain and survive. I pray and hope for evolutionary change in the (Chinese) Communist Party itself. Things will change sooner or later, within five to 10 years," he said.

The Chinese Embassy here protested the arrival Wednesday of the Dalai Lama, who fled his homeland in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese troops who had invaded nine years earlier.

Among his first appointments was a meeting with Prime Minister Jim Bolger.

Bolger declined initially last month to meet the Tibetan spiritual leader, but last week he announced he had space in his schedule to meet him.

By Bolger's account later, the meeting was mainly about Buddhism and the differences with Christianity.

The Dalai Lama told the committee there was "cultural genocide" in his country, saying that historically Tibet had never been part of China.

His attempts to seek a compromise solution had so far failed because the Chinese Government would not consider his point of view, he said.

"My way is the middle way... an agreement developed on the basis of mutual understanding," he said.

"I have made the maximum concessions and the minimum requirements. But China is not interested in our viewpoint, they just lecture us," he said.

The Dalai Lama said an alternative to the present situation had to be found and he would continue his peaceful quest although there were people in his country who considered his attitude was too passive.

"There are younger people, and some older people, who think my way is passive, but so far my argument has carried more weight than their argument," he said.

The Chinese Embassy said in its statement on Monday that the Dalai Lama was "not merely a religious figure but an exile engaged in political acts."

At a press conference after his meeting Bolger said after his discussion he viewed the Dalai Lama as "very much a religious leader."

He added that he saw him as a "respected religious leader, and that's clearly the totality of our dicussions, and contained there by himself."

Bolger said the question of China's presence in Tibet, and human rights abuses "wasn't part of the discussion."

"The world has accepted the totality of the People's Republic of China's Government of that whole landmass," Bolger said. "That has been accepted for a long time by—I think—every country in the world."

"Now there are historical debates on that which, of course, are going to be litigated from time to time. I suppose one has to say that nothing is particularly permanent in the world if you look over a 100-year period," Bolger said.

He added he talked with the Dalai Lama about exchanges between Christian and Buddhist clergy.

"He proffered the view that he thought perhaps some of the Christian monasteries were more peaceful than theirs, I am not sure what that was based on," Bolger said.

Papua New Guinea

Solomon Islands Official Visits, Holds Talks

BK1405105292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 14 May 92

[From the "Internal Report" program]

[Text] The leader of the Solomon Islands Parliamentary Committee which has spent four days in Port Moresby has criticized Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni over the breakdown in relations with Papua New Guinea [PNG]. The chairman of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, Francis (Somala), says the only way for the crisis over the Bougainville dispute to be solved is through personal contact. Mr. (Somala) says it is a positive sign that Solomon Islands' new foreign minister, Joe Tausinga, has indicated that he is considering an invitation from PNG to visit Port Moresby. Brian Abbott reports from Port Moresby.

[Begin recording] [Abbott] The Solomon Islands Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee left Honiara while relations between Port Moresby and Honiara was still tense and before they deteriorated to crisis level following Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni's unilateral decision to call off the visit to Honiara by PNG Foreign Minister Sir Michael Somare and to ban all official contacts with Port Moresby until after next month's national election. After visiting London and South

Pacific Forum countries, the delegation thought even as late as last weekend that they may not be allowed to land in Port Moresby. But, they were welcomed in traditional Melanesian fashion. The committee's job was to review Solomon Island's conduct of its foreign policy as it applied to the commonwealth and forum countries.

In meetings with Sir Michael Somare, Provincial Affairs Minister Father John Momis, and heads of government departments, the Solomon's committee gained a better appreciation of PNG's attempts to resolve the Bougainville crisis. But they were also lectured by Sir Michael on what he sees as covert support from Solomons for the BRA [Bougainville Revolutionary Army] cause. He said PNG wanted BRA information office in Honiara closed and spokesman Martin (Mariori) kicked out of the country to stop anti-PNG propaganda, and to stop the smuggling of arms and supplies to Bougainville. Committee chairman, independent MP Francis (Somala), said the once brotherly Melanesian relations have suffered because of a loss of personal contact between PNG and Solomon leaders.

[(Somala)] There should have been more talks at person to person, more talks through fax machines, so on and so forth.

[Abbott] Why had Solomon Islands Government, why particularly did the Solomon Islands prime minister refuse to talk then?

[(Somala)] I think that is a question only Mr. Mamaloni can answer.

[Abbott] Will you be asking him, as part of your investigation into relations between PNG and Solomon Islands, why he has broken down the relationship?

[(Somala)] I do not think he has broken down the relationship. What I understand to be the situation is that he has refrained (?as I see to it) from communication. I suppose he must be having some difficulty as I understand.

[Abbott] Mr. (Somala) said the first [word indistinct] in Honiara is the indication that the new foreign minister, Joe Duddly Tausinga, is considering accepting an invitation of Sir Michael Somare to visit Port Moresby. On longer term measure to improve relations, Mr. (Somala) says Solomon Islands needs to complete a border treaty with PNG similar to the Torres Strait Treaty between Australia and PNG, and will be seeking Australian help to help monitor the border with PNG near Bougainville.

[(Somala)] We suggested to the secretary general of the commonwealth to try and encourage certain friends within the commonwealth family, for instance Australia, to assist Solomon Islands in practical ways. For instance, looking at the present defense cooperation program between Australia and Solomon Islands so that resources could be reallocated within the present program to availing manpower, finance, equipment, and fuel for work on the border. PNG is well-placed, they have the resources. In fact, they have already been on the border, Solomon Islands (?have been) on and off.

[Abbott] Mr. (Somala) says the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee will question Solomon officials in the next few weeks and its comprehensive report on foreign relations, especially the PNG-Solomons difficulties will be ready for the joint-sitting of the Solomon Islands parliament. [end recording]

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